

To: R1NewsClips[R1NewsClips@epa.gov]
From: Elliott, Rodney
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Subject: Daily NEWSCLIPS - Sunday, August 9th, 2015 r1newsclips

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Obama's climate hubris	08/08/2015m, The	MA
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New state program aims at decreasing illegal dumping further	08/09/2015 Associated Press (AP)	NY
EPA: Colorado mine waste spill larger than first reported	08/09/2015 Associated Press (AP)	NY
Yellow wastewater from Colorado gold mine reaches New Mexico, nears Utah	08/09/2015 Hartford Courant Online	CT
EPA: No health risks to wildlife after Colorado mine spill	08/09/2015 Hartford Courant Online	CT
Thousands of Mines With Toxic Water Lie Under the West	08/09/2015 New York Times Online	NY
Colorado Spill Impact Widens	08/09/2015 Wall Street Journal Online	NY
Thousands of mines with toxic water lie under the West	08/08/2015 Associated Press (AP)	NY
EPA: No health risks to wildlife after Colorado mine spill	08/08/2015 Associated Press (AP)	NY
Polluted land owners in Ohio end suit against Whirlpool	08/08/2015 Associated Press Online	NY

Wastewater from Colorado mine reaches New Mexico		Associated Press Online	
Colorado river fouled by 1 million gallons of contaminated gold mine water	08/08/2015	Hartford Courant Online	CT
EPA crew accidentally turns Animas River orange	08/08/2015	Maine Sentinel Online	NH
Climate Change (9)			
Environmental Journal: A high-energy week on Capitol Hill for R.I. delegation	08/09/2015	Providence Journal Online, The	RI
To bee, or not to bee: Maine bumblebee census seeks to ensure future of crops	08/09/2015	Republican Online	MA
Two men control the thermostats in 9,000 federal buildings	08/08/2015	Dover Townsman Online	MA
Kinder Morgan plans meetings to quell pipeline opposition	08/08/2015	Eagle-Tribune, The	MA
Letter to the Editor: Carbon pricing's time has come	08/08/2015	New Haven Register	CT
Toxic algae blooming in warm water from California to Alaska affects West Coast fishing	08/08/2015	Republican Online	MA
Climate-change predictions stoke wildfire fears in Alaska	08/08/2015	USA Today Online	VA
Vt. Compost Law Seen Helping Poor	08/08/2015	Railley News	NH
Bee counters abound in Maine science effort	08/08/2015	Westerly Sun, The	RI
Energy Issues (2)			
Otis special town meeting vote could help town reap windfall	08/08/2015	Werkshire Eagle, The	MA
Tidal Energy: The World's Next Renewable Powerhouse?	08/08/2015	Boston.com	MA
Enforcement (1)			
Law preventing lead exposure 'barely enforced' in Maine	08/09/2015	Wester's Daily Democrat Online	NH
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Rains swamp Tampa's wastewater system, causing overflow	08/08/2015	Associated Press (AP)	NY
Research and Development (1)			

Scientist Discovers Ugly New Fish in Gulf of Mexico	08/08/2015	Malley News	NH
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Toxics (1)

Protecting Rhode Island's Investments	08/08/2015	Providence Journal, The	RI
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Water (6)

Thousands of mines with toxic water lie under the West	08/09/2015	Advocate Online, The	CT
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A decade after Suncook River disaster, frustration remains	08/09/2015	Concord Monitor Online	NH
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Navajo Nation considers suing EPA over spill	08/09/2015	USA Today Online	VA
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Emergency declared after EPA pollutes river	08/09/2015	USA Today Online	VA
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Mysterious fungus killing snakes in at least 9 states	08/08/2015	Sociated Press (AP)	NY
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Thousands of mines with toxic water lie under US West	08/08/2015	Sociated Press (AP)	NY
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Other (11)

EPA: No health risks to wildlife after Colorado mine spill	08/09/2015	Advocate Online, The	CT
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Michigan senator plans legislation on Canadian waste plan	08/09/2015	Sociated Press (AP)	NY
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Public health advisory issued for northwest Ohio park beach	08/08/2015	Sociated Press (AP)	NY
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Rescue dogs trained to detect invasive pests in crops	08/08/2015	Sociated Press (AP)	NY
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Devil's Lake State Park tries pesticide to fight beetle	08/08/2015	Sociated Press (AP)	NY
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If you go . . . to Revere Beach - The Boston Globe	08/08/2015	Boston Globe Online	MA
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Amid withering post-Ferguson critique, police around the country look inward	08/08/2015	Christian Science Monitor, The	MA
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Smart Commuting B2B Challenge returns in September	08/08/2015	Hampton Union - Online, The	NH
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Boat Parade in Brazil Protests Pollution in Olympic Venue	08/08/2015	New York Times Online	NY
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Capturing the Magic of a Life in the Air	08/08/2015	New York Times, The	NY
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Rutland Pipes Break, Fill Creek With Sewage

News Headline: Kansas officials riled by EPA's changes to power plant rule |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...were critical of the federal government's efforts to cut carbon emissions from power plants, the GOP-dominated Kansas Legislature...

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News Headline: Stinking mats of seaweed piling up on Caribbean beaches |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) - The picture-perfect beaches and turquoise waters that people expect on their visits to the Caribbean are increasingly being fouled by mats of decaying seaweed that attract biting sand fleas and smell like rotten eggs.

Clumps of the brownish seaweed known as sargassum have long washed up on Caribbean coastlines, but researchers say the algae blooms have exploded in extent and frequency in recent years. The 2015 seaweed invasion appears to be a bumper crop, with a number of shorelines so severely hit that some tourists have canceled summer trips and lawmakers on Tobago have termed it a "natural disaster."

From the Dominican Republic in the north, to Barbados in the east, and Mexico's Caribbean resorts to the west, officials are authorizing emergency money to fund cleanup efforts and clear stinking mounds of seaweed that in some cases have piled up nearly 10 feet high on beaches, choked scenic coves and cut off moored boats.

With the start of the region's high tourism season a few months away, some officials are calling for an emergency meeting of the 15-nation Caribbean Community, worried that the worsening seaweed influx could become a chronic dilemma for the globe's most tourism-dependent region.

"This has been the worst year we've seen so far. We really need to have a regional effort on this because this unsightly seaweed could end up affecting the image of the Caribbean," said Christopher James, chairman of the Tobago Hotel and Tourism Association.

There are various ideas about what is causing the seaweed boom that scientists say started in 2011, including warming ocean temperatures and changes in the ocean currents due to climate change. Some researchers believe it is primarily due to increased land-based nutrients and pollutants washing into the water, including

nitrogen-heavy fertilizers and sewage waste that fuel the blooms.

Brian Lapointe, a sargassum expert at Florida Atlantic University, says that while the sargassum washing up in normal amounts has long been good for the Caribbean, severe influxes like those seen lately are "harmful algal blooms" because they can cause fish kills, beach fouling, tourism losses and even coastal dead zones.

"Considering that these events have been happening since 2011, this could be the 'new normal.' Time will tell," Lapointe said by email.

The mats of drifting sargassum covered with berry-like sacs have become so numerous in the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean they are even drifting as far away as to West Africa, where they've been piling up fast in Sierra Leone and Ghana.

Sargassum, which gets its name from the Portuguese word for grape, is a floating brownish algae that generally blooms in the Sargasso Sea, a 2 million-square-mile (3 million-square-kilometer) body of warm water in the North Atlantic that is a major habitat and nursery for numerous marine species. Like coral reefs, the algae mats are critical habitats and mahi-mahi, tuna, billfish, eels, shrimp, crabs and sea turtles all use the algae to spawn, feed or hide from predators.

But some scientists believe the sargassum besieging a growing number of beaches may actually be due to blooms in the Atlantic's equatorial region, perhaps because of a high flow of nutrients from South America's Amazon and Orinoco Rivers mixing with warmer ocean temperatures.

"We think this is an ongoing equatorial regional event and our research has found no direct connection with the Sargasso Sea," said Jim Franks, senior research scientist at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

Whatever the reason, the massive sargassum flow is becoming a major challenge for tourism-dependent countries. In large doses, the algae harms coastal environments, even causing the deaths of endangered sea turtle hatchlings after they wriggle out of the sand where their eggs were buried. Cleanup efforts by work crews may also worsen beach erosion.

"We have heard reports of recently hatched sea turtles getting caught in the seaweed. If removal of seaweed involves large machinery that will also obviously cause impacts to the beaches and the ecosystems there," said Faith Bulger, program officer at the Washington-based Sargasso Sea Commission.

Mexican authorities recently said they will spend about \$9.1 million and hire 4,600 temporary workers to clean up seaweed mounds accumulating along that country's Caribbean coast. Part of the money will be used to test whether the sargassum can be collected at sea before it reaches shore.

Some tourists in hard-hit areas are trying to prevent their summer vacations from being ruined by the stinking algae.

"The smell of seaweed is terrible, but I'm enjoying the sun," German tourist Oliver Pahlke said during a visit to Cancun, Mexico.

Sitting at a picnic table on the south coast of Barbados, Canadian vacationer Anne Alma said reports of the rotting seaweed mounds she'd heard from friends did not dissuade her from visiting the Eastern Caribbean island.

"I just wonder where the seaweed is going to go," the Toronto resident said one recent morning, watching more of mats drift to shore even after crews had already trucked away big piles to use as mulch and fertilizers.

Associated Press writers Carol Williams contributed from Bridgetown, Barbados and Gabriel Alcocer from Cancun, Mexico.

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News Headline: Regulations released for federal carbon emission plan |

Outlet Full Name: New Hampshire Union Leader Online

News Text: ...applauded the Obama administration's controversial plan to cut carbon emissions from U.S. power plants, while conservative groups said the...

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News Headline: Betsy McCaughey: Obama's Clean Power Plan faces an uncertain fate |

Outlet Full Name: New Hampshire Union Leader Online

News Text: ...most important step America has ever taken in the fight against global climate change." Obama is posing as the environment's...

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News Headline: EPA orders more air quality tests for homes near Superfund sites
<http://t.co/iITXVTWm3n> |

Outlet Full Name: Twitter

News Text: EPA orders more air quality tests for homes near Superfund sites
<http://t.co/iITXVTWm3n>

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News Headline: Industry, States Set to Fight EPA Greenhouse Gas Rules |

Outlet Full Name: Wall Street Journal Online

News Text: ...NewsPower plants face new greenhouse gas regulations from the EPA.
WASHINGTON—Industry representatives and a group of state...

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News Headline: Industry, States Set To Fight EPA Rules |

Outlet Full Name: Wall Street Journal Online

News Text: ...administration rules requiring significant cuts in power-plant carbon emissions. The move, expected in the coming weeks, would open up...

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News Headline: Group wants Georgia Power profits trimmed over nuclear plant |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: ATLANTA (AP) - An environmental group wants to cut Georgia Power's profits as the cost of its new nuclear plant rises.

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy asked the Public Service Commission to trim the profits that the Southern Co. monopoly can make once two new reactors at Plant Vogtle (VOH'-gohl) start producing power.

Georgia Power can make a nearly 11 percent return on what its shareholders invest in the project.

The project was originally estimated to cost Georgia Power and the other owners around \$14 billion. Delays will likely push the final costs closer to \$16 billion or more.

An identical project at the Summer nuclear station in South Carolina has run into similar delays and costs.

The elected members of Georgia's Public Service Commission will vote on those requests Aug. 18.

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News Headline: Kansas officials riled by EPA's changes to power plant rule |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Even though many Republicans were critical of the federal government's efforts to cut carbon emissions from power plants, the GOP-dominated Kansas Legislature enacted a law spelling out how the state would comply.

Then came last week and the final version of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's rule, which tightened standards for Kansas and other states. It prompted Republican Gov. Sam Brownback and the chairman of the Kansas House's Energy and Environment Committee to suggest that the state must reconsider how it responds to the rule, which is meant to tackle climate change.

"We certainly may have to revisit the legislation that we passed," said the House committee chairman, Republican Rep. Dennis Hedke, of Wichita, who labeled the EPA's changes "absolutely crazy."

Hedke, Brownback and other critics of the EPA argue that utilities will be forced to make expensive changes and dramatically increase electric rates to cover the costs. Critics also argue that electric service could become less reliable.

However, Rabbi Moti Rieber, director of the environmental group Kansas Interfaith Power & Light, said the state can meet its targets because of a burgeoning wind-energy industry and because it has yet to be particularly aggressive about energy efficiency.

"There are a lot of Chicken Littles," he said. "The sky is not falling."

The EPA originally told states they would have to start reducing carbon emissions in 2020. The final version of the rule gives states another two years to start making reductions, but Kansas and 15 other states also received tougher targets to meet by 2030. The old target for Kansas was a 23 percent cut in emissions; the new one is 43 percent.

Brownback called the final version of the rule "twice as bad" and spokeswoman Eileen Hawley said in an emailed statement, "We will reconsider our approach to this illegal rule and determine whether it is in the best of interest of the citizens of Kansas for us to develop a state plan."

Attorney General Derek Schmidt, another Republican, has all but promised to join his colleagues in 15 other states to file a federal lawsuit against the new rule, almost

all of them Republican attorneys general and 10 from states with tougher targets to meet. They sent a letter last week to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, asking for the rule to be put on hold and seeking a prompt reply so that the states "can know whether they seek emergency relief in court."

Rieber said critics are exaggerating the potential costs, while ignoring the benefits of avoiding the potential damage from climate change due to man-made greenhouse gases, a link Hedke and Senate Utilities Committee Chairman Rob Olson, an Olathe Republican, have publicly doubted.

"We have to do something about climate change," Rieber said. "If we look at it from that perspective, it's not that onerous."

Rieber also questioned whether Brownback and others had moderated their opposition to the EPA's efforts with the new state law that will stop work on an emissions-reduction plan if the EPA rule is withdrawn or struck down by the courts.

The Kansas law also says the Department of Health and Environment must consider whether reductions can "reasonably be achieved" at each power plant and can't force them to switch fuels. The department, which plans to have a public hearing this fall on the EPA rule, must work with the Kansas Corporation Commission, which sets electric rates, to consider potential costs for consumers.

And, under the law, a new 11-member legislative committee, of which Hedke and Olson are members, must sign off on the Department of Health and Environment's plan before it can be submitted to the EPA. It is expected to meet in November.

"I want to fight," Olson acknowledged, but said that absent the EPA rule being struck down, he wants the state to develop a plan for reducing emissions because federal officials might impose one otherwise.

"Maybe something will change - we get a different president," Olson said.

Follow John Hanna on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna>

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News Headline: Researchers study weatherization's impact on bacteria |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: EUGENE, Ore. (AP) - In the latest chapter of the scientific storyline "germs can be our friends," University of Oregon researchers are studying how to get - and keep - beneficial bacteria in the home while weatherizing to keep out the cold.

UO architect Charlie Brown, microbiologist Jessica Green and others recently won a \$1 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to study 72 houses in Portland and Bend as they are weatherized over the next two years.

The academic pair - who together are pioneering the field of bio-informed building design - have so far published on the microbiology of campus buildings and hospitals.

Their theory is that heavily filtered, closed-off indoor air supplies are unhealthy because they deprive occupants of good bacteria.

"The idea is that because we evolved in the outside, the microbes that are outside are more beneficial to us than the ones that are inside," Brown said.

In four decades at the University of Oregon, Brown produced pioneering work on building design principles that make use of the sun's heat and light.

His work helped make the UO's School of Architecture and Allied Arts today the No. 1 ranked program nationally for sustainable design practices and principles - just ahead of the University of California, Berkeley, California Polytechnic and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Two years ago, the architect formed the unusual collaboration with microbiologist Green, which has resulted in more than \$3 million in grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to investigate the relationship between architectural design and the indoor microbiome.

Green, an associate professor who has been at the UO for five years, is a Guggenheim fellow.

The pair's work corresponds with the burgeoning research in the role of bacteria in the human gut, which has recently been shown to affect weight and mood.

Brown and Green's research was made possible by advances in DNA sequencing technology, which allows them to quickly and relatively cheaply analyze the makeup of microbial communities.

The researchers found that rooms ventilated by an HVAC system - college classrooms, hospital rooms - contained less diverse bacteria than those with direct ventilation to the outside.

HVACs "remove all kinds of microbes," Brown said. "They're indiscriminate. They filter out everything."

To improve air quality in a building with HVAC, managers tend crank up the number

of times the system exchanges the indoor air for the outdoor air - from once per hour to six times per hour, he said.

That uses a lot of energy, Brown said.

Nationally, the heating and cooling of residential and commercial buildings consumes 40 percent of energy, he said.

Brown is researching building designs that can improve indoor air quality - including its compliment of beneficent microbes - while retaining and improving energy efficiency.

Some design strategies include cross ventilation with energy conserving heat exchanges and provision for regular nighttime "washes" of the indoors with outdoor air.

During the EPA funded study, researchers will identify home owners seeking to weatherize their houses.

Green's team from the UO Biology and the Built Environment Center will take samples and characterize the houses' microbiomes before and after the weatherization. In addition, Oregon Research Institute will survey home owners.

Information from: The Register-Guard, <http://www.registerguard.com>

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News Headline: Forest Service abandons Tahoe logging plan in legal fight |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: RENO, Nev. (AP) - The U.S. Forest Service has abandoned logging plans it suspended in the mountains above Lake Tahoe nearly two years ago after a prominent scientist filed a lawsuit accusing the agency of acting illegally under the guise of reducing wildfire threats that did not exist.

Dennis Murphy, a professor of conservation biology at the University of Nevada who has authored key research for the service at Tahoe for years. He welcomed the cancellation of the fuels reduction project across about 100 acres of old-growth forest about 8 miles southwest of South Lake Tahoe, California.

But Murphy said the legal fight will continue in federal court. The slash piles of timber waste from hundreds of trees the agency cut and left behind have, ironically, increased fire threats previously of little real concern near Echo Lakes.

"Its decision to now walk away from the area having increased surface fuel loads, which now pose a risk to lives, property, and the local ecosystem, is inexplicable," Murphy said.

The Forest Service suspended the operations on the edge of the Desolation Wilderness in October 2013.

Jeff Marsolais, forest supervisor of the Lake Tahoe Basin unit, said in a memo last month to his boss that he'd decided to withdraw the 2012 decision his predecessor issued implementing the plan to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire without conducting the usually required environmental analysis. The Tahoe Daily Tribune first disclosed the memo.

"No further activity will occur on this project," Marsolais said in the July 20 memo the agency provided The Associated Press.

Murphy, whose family has had a cabin in the area for 80 years, was the lead editor of the two-volume Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment prepared for the Forest Service in 2000. He's served as president of the Society of Conservation Biology and three different panels for the National Academy of Sciences, including one on the Endangered Species Act.

Murphy's lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Sacramento in November 2012 said the service was ignoring its own analysis of the low fire risk in the area. It accused the agency of violating the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. It also said the agency failed to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the potential harm to wildlife, including the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.

Ex-Forest Supervisor Nancy Gibson determined the project was exempt from the usually required environmental assessment or impact statement. But the agency acknowledged that situation changed in April 2014 when the frog was proposed for listing as an endangered species.

Forest Service spokeswoman Cheva Gabor said the agency doesn't discuss active litigation.

Last fall, the competing interests clashed over the slash piles.

Murphy filed a formal notice with Judge Garland Burrell Jr. that USFS was violating the law again by moving some after assuring the court it wouldn't disturb the site without prior notice.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Broderick said agency workers moved seven slash piles by hand Oct. 17 at the request of the California Regional Water Quality Board.

"One would think that Murphy would welcome such actions, taken at the request of state environmental regulators, given his strenuous objections to any slash piles being left in damp areas," Broderick wrote.

The next court hearing isn't scheduled until March 7, 2016.

Murphy's lawyer, Paul Weiland of Irvine, California, said he didn't understand why the agency pushed the project so long before suddenly changing course.

"Their position is their decision to withdraw has nothing to do with the lawsuit but they offer no explanation. I find that curious," he told AP. "We're happy they have decided they are not going to pursue the project further, but they still have a mess up there and they can't just walk away."

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News Headline: Climate change crusade goes local | .

Outlet Full Name: Christian Science Monitor, The

News Text: Florida's state leaders are running hard from climate change. The governor, Rick Scott, doesn't want state employees to even utter the words. Former Gov. Jeb Bush and US Sen. Marco Rubio, both Republican presidential aspirants, offer a medley of objections to scientists' calls for bold action on climate change.

Eric Carpenter shrugs. The director of Miami Beach's Public Works Department sits at his desk, poring over tables of high tides on his computer. He is calculating how many pumps he needs to buy to keep the city's streets from being flooded from a rising sea caused by climate change.

Under a broiling sun, he takes a visitor a few blocks from his office, to where contractors are pouring concrete to replace a section of a city street. The new roadway is being laid incongruously 2-1/2 feet above the sidewalk cafe tables and storefront entrances at the old street level. The extra height is in preparation for the seas and tides that Mr. Carpenter already sees engulfing this section of Miami Beach.

□

"The facts are the facts, and we have to deal with them," he says.

In city after city in South Florida, local officials are dealing with climate change. So, too, are municipalities big and small across the United States. The same determination is evident among governors and legislators in more than two dozen states. And it is magnified worldwide: Surprising progress in grappling with global warming is coming from surprising nations.

This groundswell of action on climate change is producing solutions and often bypassing lagging political leadership. The gathering force of these acts, significant and subtle, is transforming what once seemed a hopeless situation into one in which success can at least be imagined. The initiatives are not enough to halt the world's plunge toward more global warming - yet. But they do point toward a turning point in greenhouse gas emissions, and ambitious - if still uneven - efforts to adapt to the changes already in motion.

"The troops on the ground, the local officials and stakeholders, are acting, even in the face of a total lack of support on the top level," says Michael Mann, a prominent climate scientist at Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pa. "The impacts of climate change are pretty bad and projected to get much worse if we continue business as usual. But there still is time to avert what we might reasonably describe as a true catastrophe. There are some signs we are starting to turn the corner."

Philip Levine, the mayor of Miami Beach, agrees. "We may not have all the answers," he says. "But we're going to show that Miami Beach is not going to sit back and go underwater."

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Representatives from more than 190 □ countries will gather in Paris in December to try to agree on international strategies for dealing with climate change. They will be spurred by their own alarm at a succession of storms, droughts, and heat waves affecting millions of people on the planet, and by outside calls, such as the moral edict from Pope Francis, to care more about the world. □

The record of past such meetings is not encouraging. But the representatives will arrive as progress on curbing greenhouse gas emissions, often overlooked, has been mounting:

□ Wind and solar power generation are bounding ahead faster than the most optimistic predictions, with a fivefold increase worldwide since 2004. More than 1 in 5 buildings in countries such as Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and even Albania are now powered by renewable energy. □

□ The US saw its greenhouse gas emissions peak in 2007. They have fallen about 10 percent since, and are roughly on course to meet President Obama's pledge to reduce emissions in the next 10 years by about 27 percent from their peak.

□ China, the world's largest carbon emitter, paradoxically leads the world in installed wind and solar power, and is charging ahead on renewables. China and the US ended their impasse over who is most responsible to fix global warming, agreeing in November to mutually ambitious goals. Experts say China already has cut coal consumption by 8 percent this year, and the environmental group Greenpeace says China stopped construction of some new coal power plants.

□ Worldwide, carbon dioxide emissions, a principal component of greenhouse gases, did not grow in 2014, according to the International Energy Agency. Emissions remained flat even as the global economy grew - an important milestone. □

□ Coal-fired power plants are being replaced rapidly by natural gas plants, which are cleaner and emit half the greenhouse gases. Britain saw an 8 percent drop in greenhouse gas emissions last year, which is attributed to national energy policies, more energy efficiency, and the switch from coal.

□ Tropical rainforests, which absorb carbon dioxide, are being cut down at a slower rate than in the past - 13 million hectares per year, compared with 16 million in the 1990s, according to the latest figures from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. That is still alarmingly high but shows progress, in part because of vows by big corporations not to buy palm oil grown on deforested lands. Brazil has made notable progress in reducing deforestation of the Amazon.

In the US, state and local governments are taking bold action even as the national discussion about the looming climate crisis remains paralyzed along political lines. In South Florida, for example, officials of four populous counties shun the rhetoric from GOP presidential aspirants and officials in the state capital and gather regularly to plot cooperative climate change strategy.

That group, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, is considered a national model for the kind of shoulder-to-shoulder effort needed to address the problem. They came up with an agreed estimate of sea level rise and identified the most vulnerable areas of the region, and now are plowing through more than 100 recommendations for action.

"There are no new funding sources coming down from the state or the Feds," says Susanne Torriente, assistant city manager for Fort Lauderdale, one of the participants of the compact. "Would it be good to have state and federal dollars? Yes. Are we going to wait until they act? No."

Their cooperation was born, essentially, on the back of a napkin. Kristin Jacobs, now a state representative who was a Broward County commissioner in 2008, was lamenting at the time that the 27 disparate municipal water authorities in the region could not agree on joint action. So she and others came up with the idea of getting local officials together in a classroom. □

"We said, 'Let's have an academy,' " she recalls, and the Broward Leaders Water Academy began offering elected officials in South Florida six-month courses in water hydraulics and policy. It has now graduated "three generations of elected officials," she says. □

Figuring out what to do about climate change - whether it is building up dunes on the

beaches, raising the height of foundations, or shifting developments back from the coastline - takes a cooperative approach. "We couldn't do it by just saying 'this is the way it is' - the Moses approach," Ms. Jacobs says. "We had to do it with compliance and acquiescence and leadership." □

Normally, direction on some of these issues might have come from state officials. But not in Florida. Not on climate change.

"We didn't have to worry about those who don't believe," Jacobs says. "At the end of the day, when the water is overtopping your sea wall, you don't really care that you didn't believe in climate change last week. You do believe in it this week."

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Built on the edge of the sea, □ Miami Beach is one of the most vulnerable cities in the world to the vicissitudes of the ocean. Its boutique commercial district and canyons of pastel apartments sit on a sieve of porous limestone. The leaky footing was formed over the eons from accumulated seashells, coral, and fish skeletons.

Today the rock acts as a giant wick, giving the relentless ocean a route for subterranean attack. Seawater pushes in from underground and often gurgles to the surface in inconvenient places. On days of really high tides - even without any rain - the briny invasion turns some city streets into small lakes, snarling traffic and cutting off businesses. Locals call it "sunny day flooding." □

The man charged with stopping the sea - or at least getting tourists and residents out of its way - is Carpenter, an affable engineer with a burly physique. Carpenter took over the city's Public Works Department two years ago. His recurring nightmare is of rising seas, frequent storms, and "king" tides sweeping through Miami Beach - and doing it in full view of the world. He knows that whatever the city does - or does not do - to prepare for climate change will be tested soon on a stage before a global audience.

"What we do here is magnified because of who we are," he says. Miami Beach thrives on a global reputation for glamour, for cultural fusion, for beaches, for heat - from the sun in the day and its epicurean club culture at night. That's not an image that sits well with flooded streets. But the water is already coming. □

As the Atlantic Ocean warms and expands, fed by melting polar ice caps, the seawater is pushing back into the 330 storm-water pipe outlets designed to drain rain from city streets. So Miami Beach is in the process of installing as many as 80 pumps, at a cost of nearly \$400 million, to make sure the water flows outward.

"If the seas are continuing to rise, and the tidal events are higher than the inland elevation, we have to pump," says Carpenter. □

The city plans to raise the level of 30 percent of its streets, encouraging businesses to abandon or remodel their first floors to go to a higher level. Carpenter says he wanted to go up nearly six feet, but town officials said "we are going too fast." So they settled on just over three feet.

"I don't think this is where we want to be long-term, but it's enough to get us through the next 10 or 20 years," he says, while standing on a new section of road at Sunset Harbor, looking down at the cafe tables on the sidewalk below, where the street used to be.

Mayor Levine echoes the importance of dealing with the future encroachment of the sea - now. "We did not ask for climate change or sea level rise," he says. "But we are the tip of the spear. We don't debate the reason why; we just come up with solutions."

Forty miles to the north, past Fort Lauderdale, Randy Brown and his utilities staff in Pompano Beach are also trying to halt the sea. Like the rest of South Florida, the coastal city of 100,000 residents is confronting the ocean above and below ground.□

They are burying a new network of water pipes - painted grape purple - running to businesses and homes. The pipes contain sewer water that has been treated to remove the smell and bacteria and then siphoned from a pipe that used to discharge it into the sea.

Pompano Beach residents use the water for their lawns and gardens, bypassing the restrictive bans on lawn sprinkling. This recycled water then trickles down into the Biscayne Aquifer.□

Cleansed as it sifts through the ground, it helps reduce the shrinking of the freshwater aquifer, which is being drawn down by the town's 26 wells and is threatened by underground salt water pushed inland by the rising sea level. Homeowners pay about two-thirds less for the recycled water than they do for potable water.□

When city officials first laid out the program at a public meeting, bringing a cake to set a neighborly tone, "it was a fiasco. [Residents] called it dangerous," chuckles Maria Loucraft, a utilities manager.

Now, people "say they can't wait for it to get to their area," adds Isabella Slagle, who goes to public events with a mascot, a purple-colored sprinkler head with sunglasses, named "Squirt" by elementary school students.

Green lawns trump the political arguments over climate change, says Mr. Brown. "We don't say climate change," he admits. "It's 'protecting resources' or sustainability.' That way, you can duck under the political radar."□ □

Some don't want to avoid the radar. Last October, the South Miami City Commission voted to create "South Florida" and secede from the rest of the state, in part because, they said, the state government in Tallahassee was not responding to their pleas to help them deal with climate change.

"It got a lot of press but nobody in the state took it very seriously," muses the mayor, Philip Stoddard, over a sandwich on the campus of Florida International University, where he is a biology professor. "But it did get people talking about climate change."

"My house is at 10 feet elevation," he adds. "My wife and I - our question is - will we be able to live out our lives in our house? I'm 58. We don't know. It's going to be a close one. If you look at the official sea level projections, they keep going up, which is a little disquieting. If you look at the unofficial projections, they scare the hell out of you."

While South Florida is a leader at local cooperation, officials in towns and cities across the country are struggling to react to a warming climate. Many municipalities have drafted action plans. Boston is converting its taxis to hybrids and requires new buildings to be built with higher foundations. Chicago is planting green gardens on city roofs to reduce the air conditioning needed to cool buildings. Seattle is helping residents install solar panels. Montpelier, Vt., vows to eliminate all fossil fuel use by 2030. Houston is laying down "cool pavements" made of reflective and porous material, and planting trees for shade.

Governors and state legislators across the country have gotten the message, too. While Congress will not debate the "Big Fix" - putting a price or a cap on carbon pollution - some states are already doing it. About 30 percent of Americans live in states that have rules capping carbon dioxide emissions and markets that allow companies to buy and sell carbon credits.□

In addition, 28 states have set mandatory quotas for renewable energy from their electric utilities. Seven states have set ambitious targets for overall greenhouse gas reductions - California has promised a reduction of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

"The best thing Congress can do right now is stay out of the way," says Anna Aurilio, director of the Washington office of the nonprofit advocacy group Environment America. Between the state efforts and the executive orders by Mr. Obama, she says, the US is on track to meet the administration's greenhouse gas goals.

"When we look at programs currently in place or set to be implemented, we can come close to the US commitment" of a 27 percent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in 10 years, she says. "But we know we have to go much, much further."

To get near the goal of keeping average global warming at 2 degrees Celsius (3.6

degrees Fahrenheit) or less, climatologists predict that countries must largely abandon the fossil fuels that have driven technological societies since the Industrial Age - achieving an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

That is an imposing goal, since billions of dollars are invested in new and existing fossil fuel power plants that can last 30 to 50 years. Even if solar or wind energy is cheaper than coal, oil, and natural gas, the owners of fossil fuel plants will be reluctant to abandon their investments. But the decisions are starting to come from the people, not just governments or corporations.

"When you have enough action taking place at the grass roots, sometimes that's a more effective means of implementing change on a large scale," says Penn State's Mr. Mann. □

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Nicole Hammer is one of the foot soldiers in the new war on global warming. A biologist, consultant, and former assistant director of a university center on climate change, she quit and decided to work with nonprofit groups, including the Moms Clean Air Force, an organization that campaigns to stem air pollution and climate change. □

"I realized we have more than enough science to take action on climate change," she says while walking at an ecology park near her home in Vero Beach, Fla. "People who normally wouldn't be involved in environmental issues are starting to speak out."

She believes community involvement is the key to solutions, because the problems are felt most keenly at that level. "We have people in communities who have to put their kids in shopping carts to get across flooded streets to get food," she says. "When you see that happening - and then you see people at high levels denying it - it's disappointing and it's incredibly frustrating."

Public outcry has helped close coal-burning power plants, which produce the dirtiest energy. Coal plants now provide about one-third of the electricity in the US - down from more than half in 1990. Tightening pollution standards and cheaper natural gas prices have prompted utilities to close 200 coal-fired plants since 2010, the Sierra Club estimates, and the trend would only accelerate under new clean air regulations unveiled by Obama in early August. □

Until recently, one argument against closing coal plants was that if the US didn't burn its own abundant coal reserves, they would just be exported to China. But Chinese authorities are so sobered by their public's resentment of the thick coal soot and industrial pollution that they are turning with startling speed to renewables. China reached a significant agreement with the US in November to cap its greenhouse gas pollutions by 2030, and further impressed experts in July by

promising to ramp up renewables to provide 20 percent of its power, a sharp turn away from its pace of bringing a new coal power plant on line every 10 days.

"China has become a policy innovator," says Nathaniel Keohane, vice president of the Environmental Defense Fund, who worked on international climate issues in the Obama administration.

Other countries are plotting their own ways to curb greenhouse gases. Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain are ramping up solar energy. France has embraced nuclear. Denmark, Portugal, and Nicaragua led in wind power in 2014. Brazil is adding hydroelectric plants as well as sharply reducing deforestation. Kenya and Turkey are tapping geothermal power. And smaller countries such as Costa Rica, Iceland, and Paraguay have found financial and tourism benefits in being at or very near "carbon neutral."

Still, the current projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on when the world will see a significant decline in global emissions vary widely - from about 2030 to after 2100 - based on guesses of how countries respond. But the dramatic shift to natural gas in the US, and the racehorse expansion of hydraulic fracturing to get it, are demonstrations that if new technologies are profitable, industries can pivot quickly.

"We can make that turn," Mr. Keohane predicts. "Imagine the day when emissions are falling instead of rising. Imagine when we are winning rather than losing." □

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News Headline: Editorial: Clean Power Plan is small step forward |

Outlet Full Name: Concord Monitor Online

News Text: ...August 9, 2015) President Obama on Monday unveiled a sweeping set of emissions restrictions aimed at curbing climate...

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News Headline: Column: Three strikes for the Obama climate change plan |

Outlet Full Name: Eagle-Tribune, The

News Text: President Barack Obama has a new plan to fight global warming, and science is on his side, isn't it? No, not exactly. But wait, calculations show the economy will benefit, don't they? No, not even close -- consumers will take a bath. Well, finally, the Constitution backs up the effort's legality, does it not? It does not.

These are some questions and answers provoked by the president's official

announcement the other day that the ever-more powerful Environmental Protection Agency will require power plants to cut carbon emissions over the next 16 years by 32 percent from levels being emitted in 2005.

The anti-scientific, anti-prosperity, anti-democratic plan does not add up. Even if every iota of the massive move is accomplished, there is no reason to think it would do much of anything positive. At best, it would reduce global warming by an unnoticeable fraction of a fraction of a fraction by century's end, and meanwhile, the nation contributing the most to carbon emissions, namely China, appears to some experts to be playing games about actually doing much of anything.

Testifying to a House committee back in April, the balanced Judith Curry, an award-winning climatologist, said it's not even clear humans are the main cause of warming. New information, she said, indicates carbon dioxide's impact on the climate is less than once supposed, and meanwhile, she added, warming has slowed down over the past 16 years.

She concedes humans play a role in warming and that catastrophe is a possibility. But temperature predictions based on the old assumptions aren't coming true, she also said, noting the endless variables. She added that arriving at dangerous tipping points is "extremely unlikely" this century.

The costs? The EPA says they will be about \$8.4 billion a year by 2030 with savings from such factors as health benefits as high as \$54 billion. The actual annual costs are more likely to be \$41 billion a year, according to a private firm of experts on such things. As for benefits from reduced carbon, the technique used to figure such things out is highly suspect, says an engineer writing in the National Review. If you used it to look at all the good carbon does in the industrial economy, you would find that substantial carbon reductions would have horrific consequences.

Finally, there is just no way this plan is constitutional because no law allows it. The plan calls for refashioning the energy regimes of state governments, and nothing in the Clean Air Act, or any other act, comes close to allowing that. The EPA has authority to address emission issues, but nothing so sweeping as what this plan has in mind. Laurence Tribe, a liberal constitutional expert and someone who wants to tackle climate change, says flatly that the EPA "is constitutionally forbidden to exercise powers Congress never delegated to it in the first place."

There are all kinds of anti-plan lawsuits already in the works as states try to protect their citizens and their rights, and some are predicting the courts will scotch the plan because the legal realities are so obvious. If they don't, the next president could delete it more easily than Obama implemented it.

If one of those two possibilities happens, those concerned most about warming should not worry too much, at least not about what this country is doing. They should understand the United States has been making enormous progress in reducing

carbon emissions through more use of natural gas with less and less reliance on coal. That's an answer for many other nations, too -- fracking.

Do renewables really make economic and energy sense as the way of the future? Supposing the answer is yes, watch the free market do its job. Scientists are meanwhile devising all kinds of ingenious plans that could turn things around dramatically, if necessary, even without the help of China.

There is wisdom outside of Washington.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

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News Headline: Solar technology could give consumers the power to get off the grid

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Outlet Full Name: Keene Sentinel Online

News Text: ...prompted by a combination of high power prices and generous subsidies for renewable energy. If predictions hold true that solar...

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News Headline: Small but mighty green |

Outlet Full Name: Portland Press Herald

News Text: part 2 of a 3-part series on groovy green towns in Maine

Tight-knit Norway, with its bicycle borrowing, electric vehicle charging station, and multiple solar and gardening projects, has managed to create a mindset and a movement toward sustainability.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of profiles on Maine communities making major strides toward sustainability. We looked outside the obvious areas (Portland, we love you and your suburbs, but you get lots of attention for being a green city) and looked for places where efforts were well underway to reduce fossil fuel consumption, promote local foods or farming, or look for new ways to move people (and things) around. Our criteria was loose, but we aimed to find a critical mass toward change. Everyone we asked for recommendations sent us to Norway, and when we started looking around this pretty little Oxford County town of just over 5,000 people, we found that it was exactly the kind of place we wanted to highlight. (Check out the first in our series, about Skowhegan, which ran Aug. 2.)

What Norway is doing appears to be contagious; as you'll see here, its immediate

neighbor, South Paris, is also in on the act.

NORWAY -- There is free food on Main Street. At waist height, just waiting to be grabbed by anyone. The catch is, you have to wait for it ripen.

This spring, a dozen green boxes were placed along the street as part of the Edible Main Street project. One of them sits right in front of the Center for an Ecology-Based Economy. The lettuce and peas have gone by, but the nasturtiums are blooming and the tomato plants are flowering.

"We have had more conversations about food over these planters than we have inside," said Scott Vlaun, the center's executive director. He and his wife, board member and communications director Zizi Vlaun, are two of four co-founders of the group. Fair Share, Norway's food co-op since 1975, is next door. Four hundred families have shares in the co-op.

If you don't need free food, you might help yourself to some free transportation: The bike rack in front of the Center for Ecology- Based Economy is filled with lime-green bikes fitted with orange milk crates on the back, just in case you want to haul home groceries or maybe, if your budget allows it, one of the hip leather purses made across the street at Rough & Tumble designer Natasha Durham's production facility and flagship store. About 20 of the bikes were donated by community members; others came from the Norway Police Department's stash of unclaimed stolen bikes.

"So if people steal them ... it doesn't matter," Scott Vlaun said with a shrug.

The Vlauns are major players in the green movement regionally. He bought land nearby, in Otisfield, in 1980 when he was a student at the Portland School of Art (now Maine College of Art). He built a simple cabin and, after he met Zizi, started bringing her there for escapes from their busy lives in New York. She was a graphic artist, and he was a printer for famed war photographer James Nachtwey, who frequently publishes in Time magazine.

The Vlauns' regular visits to Otisfield convinced them they wanted to move to Maine full time, and so they did, bringing freelance work with them, including the catalog and website design for organic seed retailer Seeds of Change. They created a small farm and ran a CSA from it. The more rooted they became in the greater Norway community, the more they wanted to implement change in this former town built on mills and shoe factories. The Center of Ecology- Based Economy was born, with a mission statement "to engage the community in developing practical, ecological solutions to perennial needs." The Vlauns, along with a fleet of other innovators in this tight-knit community, want to help Norway wean itself off fossil fuels and become as self-sustaining as possible.

It's already happening. There's a charging station downtown for electric vehicles. South Paris, which is immediately adjacent to Norway, became home to Maine's first

"community solar" project this spring, an array erected on the roof of a former chicken barn and co- owned by nine Mainers. It's also the site of the Paris Autobarn, where green auto repairs are performed in a building rigged with solar panels.

In Norway, where the old opera house is undergoing a meticulous restoration by the town, there's talk of putting solar on the roof. Another possibility? Harnessing Pennessseewassee Stream, which runs through town, to supply the Opera House with hydropower.

Among the projects the Vlauns' center has under way already is a creating a "food forest," with everything from hazelnut trees to Nanking cherries and apricots, funded in part by a 2014 Maine Local Foods Grant from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and MaineToday Media, the Maine Sunday Telegram's parent company. It is being planted now in the back half of the already flourishing Alan Day Community Garden, where Scott Vlaun can be found regularly leading a yoga and gardening class (weeding doesn't have to be back-breaking).

The community gardens, a block from the center's office, include plots for about 20 gardeners and also plots for a CSA. The land had been a storage area for the C.B. Cummings & Sons dowel mill, one of Norway's most enduring companies. The mill had been open 142 years when it closed in 2002, citing competition from foreign markets. The lot is an astonishingly lush 3 acres, donated by the daughters of Alan Day, who had a house that backed on to it. Day, too, was an active advocate for sustainability. "He bought it with an inkling of doing something with it," Vlaun said. But after his death from a fast-moving cancer, Day's daughters made a gift of it to the town.

Vlaun's tractor sat in the middle of the garden recently. He had brought it over to move manure around for the food forest and some new beds. Thanks to volunteers, the garden has electric plug-ins (sometimes it's the site of live music) that run off solar, as well as an ingenious watering station that pumps well water via solar power. "It only pumps when the sun is shining," Vlaun said.

This isn't the only community farming opportunity in town. Just up the road is the Roberts Farm Preserve, a former dairy farm on 165 acres, acquired in 2007 by the Western Foothills Land Trust. Local middle and high school students travel to the preserve to participate in the Garden to School Project. It includes a classroom, a greenhouse (the students are working on hydroponics), pigs, goats, beehives and seemingly every kind of vegetable under the sun. This isn't a frivolous endeavor; about 60 percent of the students in the local school district are food insecure and receiving either free or reduced-price lunches. Not only can they eat what they grow, but they're being instructed in a means of feeding themselves throughout their lives.

The Vlauns are trying to raise money for another project, the Agricultural Research Center for Restorative Agriculture, that would also be housed at the Roberts Farm Preserve (fitting, since it once belonged to John Roberts, Maine's commissioner of

agriculture from 1913 to 1920).

What's restorative agriculture?

"We have very hilly land around here," Scott Vlaun said. "With poorer soils. It's really hard for farmers to produce on these thinner, depleted soils, so we're trying to develop what John Piotti (of Maine Farmland Trust) calls 'next practices.' " That is, farming techniques that can improve that soil without trucking in amendments.

While showing off the Roberts Farm Preserve, the Vlauns bump into Lee Dassler, the executive director of the Western Foothills Land Trust. She's got a crew of young volunteers, including a number from the University of Maine's 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond, busy clearing trails for a path. "Great crew," Dassler said. "They've been working since 8:30 in the morning."

They were working on a running path, but the preserve is already laced with nearly 10 miles of Nordic ski and snowshoe trails, all accessible for free recreation in the winter months. That the community would put so much effort into these trails dovetails nicely with its history. Norway was once known as the Snowshoe Capital of the World because of its snowshoe manufacturing. A giant snowshoe donated by the Snocraft company used to greet visitors to town. (Norway also had a thriving industry for street shoes into the 1970s, a past not entirely vanished thanks to the presence of one of New Balance's athletic shoe factories.)

A few minutes later, Scott Berk and a companion happened by, hiking up the trail to the overlook of Norway Lake. He serves on the Center for an Ecology-Based Economy board and owns Cafe Nomad, a thriving restaurant that features local foods, as well as Fiber & Vine, a wool and wine store on Main Street. How easy it is to run into many of the major players active in the local green scene speaks to the way Norway's size works to its advantage.

"It's small enough so that a few people like Lee Dassler and Scott Berk can come in and make a tremendous difference," Vlaun said.

And it's catching.

Consider Carly Sauro, a native of Norway and a rising sophomore at College of the Atlantic who is spending her summer interning with the Vlauns. When she was trying to figure out what to do for the summer, it occurred to her that she could just ... go home. "I started thinking, they have a lot of the same values as my school does," she said. "There are so many projects that I believe in here. And there are so many people I want to help because I know them." Mary Pols can be contacted at 791-6456 or at: mpols@pressherald.com Twitter: marypols

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News Headline: Obama's climate hubris |

Outlet Full Name: Sentinel & Enterprise

News Text: By Betsy McCaughey

Special to Sentinel & Enterprise

Last week, President Barack Obama was hailing his Clean Power Plan as "the single most important step America has ever taken in the fight against global climate change."

Obama is posing as the environment's savior, just as he did in 2008, when he promised his presidency would mark "the moment when ... the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal." Seven years later, that messianic legacy is in doubt.

Obama's Clean Power Plan has never had legislative support, even when his own party controlled both houses of Congress. Now he's trying to impose it without Congress, an audacious ploy his old Harvard law professor, Laurence Tribe, condemns as "burning the Constitution."

As his presidency wanes, Obama is desperately burnishing his eco-credentials with environmental zealots like Pope Francis and the leftists at the U.N. and in the European Union. But here at home, his plan would be a disaster economically, which explains its failure in Congress. Hillary Clinton is pledging to support the plan, while Republicans vying for their party's presidential nomination are vowing to oppose it. The Clean Power Plan will be a fiercely debated issue in coal-consuming swing states like Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania -- where the race for the White House is usually decided.

Obama's Environmental Protection Agency is imposing the Clean Power Plan on all 50 states, requiring each state to close down coal-burning electric plants, and shift to other sources of electricity -- natural gas-burning plants, nuclear plants, solar and wind-power generators -- to reduce carbon emissions by one-third. Nationwide, about 40 percent of electric power is produced by coal plants. Forcing these utilities to close will burn consumers with higher electric bills. It will also send hundreds of thousands of jobs a year up in smoke, as employers pay more to operate their businesses, according to Heritage Foundation economists.

And for what? The purported benefit is to avoid an imperceptible 0.02 degree Celsius increase in global temperatures by the year 2100. That's the official EPA estimate of the benefits of this Clean Power Plan. You must be kidding.

That's what as many as 25 governors are saying, and they are expected to file a lawsuit challenging the plan. They've got a strong case. Although the EPA bases its

authority on the Clean Air Act of 1970, nothing in that law authorizes the agency to do more than require plants to use the best available technology -- like scrubbers -- to reduce emissions. Congress never authorized the EPA to force states to close coal plants and move on to nuclear, or wind and solar.

"The brute fact is that the Obama administration failed to get climate legislation through Congress. Yet the EPA is acting as though it has the legislative authority anyway to re-engineer the nation's electric generating system," says Tribe. "It does not."

Defenders of the president's environmental agenda say he has to act alone because the Congress is gridlocked. That's untrue. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are against the plan, and for good reasons.

Obama's EPA has tried several end runs around Congress, creatively interpreting the 45-year-old Clean Air Act to suit its agenda. But it hasn't always gotten away with it. In a stinging U.S. Supreme Court rebuke against the administration's restrictions on mercury emissions, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote that "it is not rational, never mind 'appropriate' to impose billions of dollars in economic costs" when the benefits are so uncertain.

The same could be said for the plan announced last week. Defenders of the new regulation predict falling energy costs from renewable sources, but so far, that is pie-in-the-sky speculation. Like the president's prediction that the average family would save \$2,500 because of Obamacare.

But long before the Supreme Court weighs in on this new plan, presidential politics is likely to determine its fate. Another example of how high the stakes are in 2016.

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News Headline: Court action could halt new EPA regs |

Outlet Full Name: Sun Journal

News Text: During the 2008 presidential campaign, Sen. Barack Obama said: "...if somebody wants to build a coal power plant, they can. It's just that it will bankrupt them..." He added that under his now defeated Cap and Trade bill, "electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

In 2010, Cap and Trade died in the Senate, but the president's goal of bankrupting the coal industry never waned. Monday he announced that the Environmental Protection Agency will impose new regulations throughout the country limiting carbon emissions from power plants powered by fossil fuels. Several states are challenging the EPA rules "that aim to cut carbon emissions in the power sector by 32 percent." EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, testifying before Congress, was asked about

claims that the new EPA plan would only impact global warming by a measly .01 degrees Celsius, to which she replied, "...I'm not disagreeing that this action in and of itself will not make all the difference we need to address climate action, but if we don't take action domestically, we will never get started..."

The Washington Post, which believes the Earth is warming and humans are responsible, acknowledged the regulations have "shortcomings," but endorsed them because they set a good example for the rest of the world.

So, these regulations are likely to cost jobs, raise electricity prices and have a minimal effect on global temperatures, but they will set a good example? Is that the new policy standard?

Among many reasons Americans should be suspicious of this "climate change putsch," as a Wall Street Journal editorial labeled it, is that Administrator McCarthy has refused to release the "secret science" her agency used when drafting the new regulations. This "most transparent administration in U.S. history" has now added to the secret side deals with Iran, secret scientific "evidence," which may not be evidence at all. Cults do that by suppressing any information and facts contrary to the imposed orthodoxy.

After the initial fusillade from critics, the president fired back, arguing that addressing "climate change" is a moral obligation and a matter of national security. It would be helpful to know the president's standard for determining what is moral and what is immoral, especially since he has said nothing about those Planned Parenthood videos in which high-level employees are shown explaining how the organization can abort babies in ways that preserve body parts. And there is ISIS, which continues to operate and appears not to have been "diminished and degraded," as the president promised it would. Is ISIS not a bigger national security issue?

The president might have more political success and even attract Republican and conservative support had he framed this in a different way. Instead of attacking coal plants and other users of fossil fuel that have produced electricity and elevated the American lifestyle, he should have launched a campaign to deprive terrorists and Islamic fundamentalists of oil revenue. Instead of picking the controversial "climate change" horse to ride roughshod over Congress and a skeptical public, the president might have embraced an alternative fuel agenda that would have achieved his desired without the crushing blows that almost certainly will impact states where fossil fuels have provided jobs that probably will evaporate, if not immediately, then eventually.

The EPA regulations are likely to reach the Supreme Court. In 2007, while the Court did grant authority to the EPA to regulate carbon emissions (*Mass. v. EPA*), it said it was not giving the agency an unrestricted license to do what it wants. It ruled that costs and outcomes must be taken into consideration as part of its regulatory mandates. The Court decision was one of two rebukes it has delivered to the EPA in

the past two years for exceeding its statutory powers.

As the Court noted, "When an agency claims to discover in a long- extant statute an unheralded power to regulate a significant portion of the American economy, we typically greet its announcement with a measure of skepticism. We expect Congress to speak clearly if it wishes to assign to an agency decisions of vast economic and political significance."

These are bound to be the issues should the EPA regulations again reach the Court, as they should.

Cal Thomas is a syndicated columnist and author. Readers may email him at: tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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News Text: By Betsy McCaughey

Special to The Sun

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Obama's Environmental Protection Agency is imposing the Clean Power Plan on all 50 states, requiring each state to close down coal-burning electric plants, and shift to other sources of electricity -- natural gas-burning plants, nuclear plants, solar and wind-power generators -- to reduce carbon emissions by one-third. Nationwide, about 40 percent of electric power is produced by coal plants. Forcing these utilities to close will burn consumers with higher electric bills. It will also send hundreds of thousands of jobs a year up in smoke, as employers pay more to operate their businesses, according to Heritage Foundation economists.

And for what? The purported benefit is to avoid an imperceptible 0.02 degree Celsius increase in global temperatures by the year 2100. That's the official EPA estimate of the benefits of this Clean Power Plan. You must be kidding.

That's what as many as 25 governors are saying, and they are expected to file a lawsuit challenging the plan. They've got a strong case. Although the EPA bases its authority on the Clean Air Act of 1970, nothing in that law authorizes the agency to do more than require plants to use the best available technology -- like scrubbers -- to reduce emissions. Congress never authorized the EPA to force states to close coal plants and move on to nuclear, or wind and solar.

"The brute fact is that the Obama administration failed to get climate legislation through Congress. Yet the EPA is acting as though it has the legislative authority anyway to re-engineer the nation's electric generating system," says Tribe. "It does not."

Defenders of the president's environmental agenda say he has to act alone because the Congress is gridlocked. That's untrue. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are against the plan, and for good reasons.

Obama's EPA has tried several end runs around Congress, creatively interpreting the 45-year-old Clean Air Act to suit its agenda. But it hasn't always gotten away with it. In a stinging U.S. Supreme Court rebuke against the administration's restrictions on mercury emissions, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote that "it is not rational, never mind 'appropriate' to impose billions of dollars in economic costs" when the benefits are so uncertain.

The same could be said for the plan announced last week. Defenders of the new regulation predict falling energy costs from renewable sources, but so far, that is pie-in-the-sky speculation. Like the president's prediction that the average family would save \$2,500 because of Obamacare.

But long before the Supreme Court weighs in on this new plan, presidential politics is likely to determine its fate. Another example of how high the stakes are in 2016.

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News Headline: New state program aims at decreasing illegal dumping further |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's increased effort to prosecute illegal dumping on state recreational properties has resulted in 34 arrests.

The Press of Atlantic City reports (<http://bit.ly/1MXjYW7>) DEP Commissioner Bob Martin announced a partnership last week between the state and the cities of Camden, Trenton and Secaucus for a new program aimed at discouraging illegal dumping.

The "Don't Waste Our Open Space" program launched a new mobile app that allows visitors at state recreational areas to report dumping sites. Users can snap photos of the debris and send them to the DEP so the agency can investigate and begin to clean up.

Martin says he wants illegal dumpers to know there will be consequences for their actions.

There are 813,000 acres of state-preserved open space in New Jersey.

Information from: The Press of Atlantic City (N.J.),
<http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com>

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News Headline: EPA: Colorado mine waste spill larger than first reported |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: DENVER (AP) - The Environmental Protection Agency says the mine waste spill into Colorado waters is much larger than originally estimated.

But an EPA official said Sunday that she doesn't believe wildlife will suffer significant health impacts from the wastewater from an abandoned mine in southwestern Colorado.

The agency said the amount of heavy-metal laced water that leaked from the Gold King Mine into the Animas River, turning the water a mucky orange and then yellow, is three times larger than its initial estimate.

The EPA now says 3 million gallons of wastewater spilled Wednesday and

Thursday, instead of 1 million. The revision came after the EPA used a stream gauge from the U.S. Geological Survey.

The agency has so far been unable to determine whether humans or aquatic life face health risks. However, EPA toxicologist Deborah McKean said the sludge moved so quickly after the spill that it would not have "caused significant health effects" to animals that consumed the water.

The discolored water from the spill stretched more than 100 miles from where it originated near Colorado's historic mining town of Silverton into the New Mexico municipalities of Farmington, Aztec and Kirtland.

The leading edge of the plume was headed toward Utah and Montezuma Creek near the town of Bluff, a tourist destination. The town, which is populated by a few hundred people, is surrounded by scenic sandstone bluffs.

Local officials were preparing to shut down two wells that serve Montezuma Creek, said Rex Kontz, deputy general manager for the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

To keep water flowing to homes, the residential tank in Halchita has been filled with clean water hauled 40 miles from Arizona.

Back in Colorado where the spill started, the EPA planned to meet with residents of Durango, downstream from the mine. The EPA water tests near Durango are still being analyzed.

The EPA has not said how long cleanup efforts will take. An EPA-supervised crew trying to enter the mine to pump out and treat the water caused the spill

Associated Press writer Lindsay Whitehurst contributed from Salt Lake City.

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News Headline: Yellow wastewater from Colorado gold mine reaches New Mexico, nears Utah |

Outlet Full Name: Hartford Courant Online

News Text: Mustard-colored wastewater laced with heavy metals continues to drain into a river from an abandoned mine in southwestern Colorado at a rate...

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News Headline: EPA: No health risks to wildlife after Colorado mine spill | .

Outlet Full Name: Hartford Courant Online

News Text: An Environmental Protection Agency official said Sunday she doesn't believe wildlife will suffer significant health impacts from...

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News Headline: Thousands of Mines With Toxic Water Lie Under the West | .

Outlet Full Name: New York Times Online

News Text: ...a nauseating yellow concoction and stoking alarm about contamination of drinking water. Though the spill into the Animas River in...

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News Headline: Colorado Spill Impact Widens |

Outlet Full Name: Wall Street Journal Online

News Text: Brent Lewis/Denver Post/Getty ImagesThe U.S. Environmental Protection Agency apologized for the toxic breach it caused, sending...

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News Headline: Thousands of mines with toxic water lie under the West |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: DENVER (AP) - Beneath the western United States lie thousands of old mining tunnels filled with the same toxic stew that spilled into a Colorado river last week, turning it into a nauseating yellow concoction and stoking alarm about contamination of drinking water.

Though the spill into the Animas River in southern Colorado is unusual for its size, it's only the latest instance of the region grappling with the legacy of a centuries-old mining boom that helped populate the region but also left buried toxins.

Until the late 1970s there were no regulations on mining in most of the region, meaning anyone could dig a hole where they liked and search for gold, silver, copper or zinc. Abandoned mines fill up with groundwater and snowmelt that becomes tainted with acids and heavy metals from mining veins which can trickle into the region's waterways. Experts estimate there are 55,000 such abandoned mines from Colorado to Idaho to California, and federal and state authorities have struggled to clean them for decades. The federal government says 40 percent of the headwaters of

Western waterways have been contaminated from mine runoff.

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency was trying to staunch leakage from a gold mine - not worked since 1923 - high in the San Juan mountains of southern Colorado. But workers moving debris from the mine tunnel accidentally opened up the passage, leading to a million gallons of sludge spilling into a creek that carried it into the Animas River. From there the discharge headed toward the Colorado River, which provides water to tens of millions of Westerners.

"The whole acid draining issue is something we struggle with in the western United States," said Bruce Stover, the Colorado Department of Mining official in charge of dealing with abandoned mines in that state.

One of the complicating factors is money and legal liability. Cleaning up the mines is very costly, and the Clean Water Act says that anyone who contributes to pollution of a waterway can be prosecuted for a federal crime, even if they were trying to clean up pollution. That's kept environmental groups from helping the EPA treat water and tidy up mines. Groups for several years have been pushing for a federal law that would let so-called "Good Samaritan" groups help with cleanup without being exposed to legal liability.

"There's still a whole generation of abandoned mines that needs to be dealt with," said Steve Kandell of Trout Unlimited, one of the organizations backing the bill.

But the Wednesday spill from the Gold King mine shows the amount of damage that the slightest cleanup accident can inflict. The mine is one of four outside the old mining town of Silverton that have leaked heavy metals into Cement Creek, which flows into the Animas. Cement Creek is so poisoned that no fish live there and the EPA has long registered abnormal levels of acidity and heavy metals in the upper Animas that have also injured aquatic life.

Downstream, though, the Animas flows through the scenic town of Durango and is a magnet for summer vacationers, fishermen and rafters. The river turned yellow Thursday, emitting a sickening stench and sending water agencies scrambling to shut off the taps from the waterway.

The EPA apologized profusely to residents for both the accident and failing to warn anyone for the first 24 hours. During a town hall meeting in Durango on Friday, a restaurant owner asked the EPA if it would compensate businesses for lost revenue, while officials warned that the river may turn yellow again in the spring, when snowmelt kicks up the settled contaminated sediment.

The history of the Gold King and its neighboring mines is also an example of the difficulty in cleaning up old waste. The EPA had initially tried to plug a leak in another mine that drained into Cement Creek, the American Tunnel, but that simply pushed more contaminated water out of the neighboring mines such as Gold King.

"In this day and age, everyone wants the quick fix, but these things take time," said Jason Willis, an environmental engineer who works with Trout Unlimited in Colorado. "These are site-specific tasks."

Stover said it was particularly galling that the Animas was contaminated by the very chemicals that environmental officials have been trying to remove from its watershed.

"It's very unfortunate," Stover said. "We've been fighting this war for years, and we've lost a battle. But we're going to win the war."

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News Headline: EPA: No health risks to wildlife after Colorado mine spill |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: DENVER (AP) - An Environmental Protection Agency official said Sunday she doesn't believe wildlife will suffer significant health impacts from the large volume of wastewater that spilled from an abandoned mine in southwestern Colorado.

The EPA also said the amount of heavy-metal laced wastewater that spilled from Colorado's Gold King Mine into the Animas River, turning the water a mucky orange and then yellow, is three times larger than its initial estimate.

The agency now says 3 million gallons spilled into the river Wednesday and Thursday, instead of 1 million. The revision came after the EPA used a stream gauge from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Four days after the EPA-caused spill, the agency has been unable to determine whether humans or aquatic life face health risks. However, EPA toxicologist Deborah McKean said the sludge moved so quickly after the spill that it would not have "caused significant health effects" to animals that consumed the water.

The discolored water from the spill stretched more than 100 miles from where it originated near Colorado's historic mining town of Silverton into the New Mexico municipalities of Farmington, Aztec and Kirtland.

The leading edge of the plume was headed toward Utah and Montezuma Creek near the town of Bluff, a tourist destination. The town, which is populated by a few hundred people, is surrounded by scenic sandstone bluffs.

Local officials were preparing to shut down two wells that serve Montezuma Creek, said Rex Kontz, deputy general manager for the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

To keep water flowing to homes, the residential tank in Halchita has been filled with clean water hauled 40 miles from Arizona.

Back in Colorado where the spill started, the EPA planned to meet with residents of Durango, downstream from the mine. The EPA water tests near Durango are still being analyzed.

The EPA has not said how long cleanup efforts will take. An EPA-supervised crew trying to enter the mine to pump out and treat the water caused the spill

Associated Press writer Lindsay Whitehurst contributed from Salt Lake City.

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News Headline: Polluted land owners in Ohio end suit against Whirlpool | .

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...to build housing there. The deal was made after Whirlpool agreed to clean up contaminated soil at the site near the Benton Harbor,...

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News Headline: Wastewater from Colorado mine reaches New Mexico | .

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...said. "We still don't know how bad it is." About 1 million gallons of wastewater from Colorado's Gold King Mine began spilling into the...

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News Headline: Colorado river fouled by 1 million gallons of contaminated gold mine water | .

Outlet Full Name: Hartford Courant Online

News Text: ...officials said Friday the spill contains heavy metals including lead and arsenic, but it was too early to know whether they posed a health...

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News Headline: EPA crew accidentally turns Animas River orange | .

Outlet Full Name: Keene Sentinel Online

News Text: ...a big, and potentially hazardous, mess in Colorado, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. An estimated 1...

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News Headline: Environmental Journal: A high-energy week on Capitol Hill for R.I. delegation |

Outlet Full Name: Providence Journal Online, The

News Text: Think of this as the Senate edition of the Environmental Journal. What's the plan? U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse on Tuesday made use of an...

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News Headline: To bee, or not to bee: Maine bumblebee census seeks to ensure future of crops |

Outlet Full Name: Republican Online

News Text: ...factors that could be accelerating honeybee deaths, including parasites, pesticides, and poor nutrition from a lack of diversity in pollen...

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News Headline: Two men control the thermostats in 9,000 federal buildings | ..

Outlet Full Name: Andover Townsman Online

News Text: ...that many people who are satisfied," said Kampschroer, who as GSA's sustainability chief sets policy on air conditioning. The...

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News Headline: Kinder Morgan plans meetings to quell pipeline opposition |

Outlet Full Name: Eagle-Tribune, The

News Text: SALEM, N.H. – The company pushing a natural gas pipeline for sections of Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire will make its case during another round of public meetings next month.

Kinder Morgan has scheduled five informational sessions for New Hampshire,

including one set for Sept. 17 in Salem.

“This is an opportunity for people who are interested in learning more about NED (Northeast Energy District) to come and ask project team members questions and get the facts about NED,” said Allen Fore, vice president of public affairs for Kinder Morgan.

“We look forward to maintaining and advancing a constructive dialogue with the every local community and all interested stakeholders.”

Earlier this month, the project recently launched a New Hampshire-specific website to help Granite Staters learn more about the project and the economic benefits it will bring to local homes and businesses.

“We are committed to this project and to working with every community to find common sense solutions to make this project better,” said Fore. “NED is a New Hampshire energy solution that will help foster economic growth, create jobs, and help the region continue to reduce its carbon footprint. We look forward to continuing our work on this critical project in an open and transparent fashion.”

The company wants to build a \$3.3 billion pipeline stretching from Pennsylvania to Dracut to deliver natural gas to homes and businesses in the region.

Proponents of the pipeline point to New England's spike in energy rates during recent years, especially in the winter. Unions, particularly the Laborers International Union of North America, which has a standing agreement with the Pipeline Contractors Association, say the pipeline's construction will create lucrative jobs for the region.

Opponents cite safety, disruption of wetlands and conservation lands and, in many cases, damage to their property as reasons the project should not go forward. Critics also claim there is no need for a pipeline as large as the one Kinder Morgan proposes, unless the company plans to ship the gas overseas.

The Sept. 17 "informational" open house will be held at Rockingham Park, 79 Rockingham Park Blvd., Salem, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Additional meetings will be held in New Ipswich, Fitzwilliam, Milford and Merrimack. All meetings will be 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information regarding the dates and locations of the open houses or to get more information on NED go to energymattersnh.com.

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News Headline: Letter to the Editor: Carbon pricing's time has come | .

Outlet Full Name: New Haven Register

News Text: ...— not a favorite of conservatives — and fails to mention lowering emissions with market-based, carbon emissions pricing, a plan...

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News Headline: Toxic algae blooming in warm water from California to Alaska affects West Coast fishing | .

Outlet Full Name: Republican Online

News Text: ... "The question on everyone's mind is whether this is related to global climate change. The simple answer is that it could be, but...

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News Headline: Climate-change predictions stoke wildfire fears in Alaska | .

Outlet Full Name: USA Today Online

News Text: Climate-change predictions stoke wildfire fears in Alaska as the state wraps up one of its worst wildfire seasons in history.

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News Headline: Vt. Compost Law Seen Helping Poor | .

Outlet Full Name: Valley News

News Text: Could Vermont's new recycling law help feed the poor?

All signs point to yes, according to charitable organizations that work to channel large amounts of food from producers and retailers into the homes of those in need.

"For 2016, we are predicting that our food will increase by 60 percent over 2015, in large part due to Act 48," Vermont's universal recycling law, according to Alex Bornstein, the chief operations officer of the Vermont Foodbank.

Bornstein projected that the food bank will see an additional 1.5 million pounds of food donated by Vermont's largest retailers in 2016, bringing the annual total up to 4 million pounds.

Under the law, compostable materials, including food, are being phased out of the waste stream in an effort to conserve landfill space and help the environment by reducing the amount of methane gas released into the atmosphere. On July 1, some

grocery retailers, large restaurants and other companies that produce more than a ton of compostable waste a week faced a new requirement to take that material to a composting facility, as long as one exists within 20 miles. A state list includes only one such facility in the Upper Valley, a small operation in Corinth called Cookeville Compost.

Since that deadline passed, Bornstein said, the food bank has seen an immediate surge in donations - 24 percent more food was donated from retailers last month than in July 2014.

Successfully diverting organic materials from the waste stream is one of the biggest challenges the new law poses.

According to a 2013 Waste Composition Study paid for by the state, 28 percent of residential waste, and 18 percent of industrial, commercial and institutional waste, is made up of organic materials, even after recycling and composting diversions were factored in.

Because of this, the state-commissioned Vermont Materials Management Plan charges the Agency of Natural Resources with spreading awareness about food rescue options.

Bryn Oakleaf, an environmental analyst with the Agency of Natural Resources, said staffers tasked with overseeing the implementation of the law are busy educating the larger companies along the food chain about how to best manage organic waste according to a hierarchy of best use.

"Not wasting it at all is best," Oakleaf said. "Secondary is feeding food to people that need it and that can use it."

Food unfit for human consumption is directed for use as animal feed, composting and energy production through the use of anaerobic digesters.

"There's a significant portion of food that gets to our retailers and distributors that doesn't get purchased by their sell-by dates," she said. "We're seeing more and more of those items going to donation."

Over the next few years, Act 148 imposes increasingly severe restrictions on food waste, culminating with a complete landfill ban in 2020.

Oakleaf said distinguishing the impact of the law from factors affecting donated food can be tricky, but she anticipates the law will also help by building up a better infrastructure of charitable organizations that can handle perishable food, and a greater awareness of their services.

And gleaning organizations such as Lebanon's Willing Hands are scrambling to

create an infrastructure that can safely and quickly get food from producers to clients, according to Gabe Zoerheide, executive director.

Managing a food rescue operation is a question of logistics, Zoerheide said.

The organization owns a refrigeration truck that is on the road 360 days of the year, visiting farms, local co-ops and Upper Valley Produce two or three times a day and dropping off vegetables, dairy products, meat and other food items to 54 locations, such as food pantries and senior centers, each week.

The schedule can be manic, and the law could make it more so, Zoerheide said.

"Do we need to add a second truck? Do we need to add more distribution routes? How do we store it? These are questions the board is asking," Zoerheide said.

Bornstein said the Vermont Foodbank, which works with 225 partner groups statewide, is seeing similar questions on a broader scale. New relationships are being forged between food producers and food pantries, and the food rescue chain is getting more sophisticated in handling product, from ensuring food safety to branching into new types of food. The Vermont Foodbank recently became certified to handle seafood, Bornstein said.

Some retailers are already well-positioned under the law.

Hannaford operates 17 grocery stores in the state of Vermont. Eric Blom, a company spokesman, said five or six stores were already composting a decade ago. Today, almost without exception, the stores have well-established relationships with partners like the Vermont Foodbank.

"Last year, we donated more than 14 million pounds of food to food banks," Blom said. "We're pretty proud of our efforts."

Finding reliable partners is part of the challenge, Blom said.

"In just three of our stores, there is a small amount of food waste that does go into the compactor because we're having trouble getting reliable pickups," he said. "Other than that, there's nothing."

The large majority of the consumable food makes its way into the food rescue chain, while most of the material that can't be eaten by people winds up supplying pig farmers.

Across the entire chain of 187 stores, 80 percent of Hannaford's waste is diverted from the landfills, and composting increased by 130 percent last year, according to Blom.

Getting on board with recycling has paid environmental and social dividends, Blom said, but it's also helped with profits.

"Landfills cost money," Blom said. "Last year, our sustainability practices saved our company \$15 million."

Other groups are benefiting from a new enthusiasm among retailers to stay ahead of the law by ramping up their food donations.

At the Upper Valley Haven, Executive Director Sara Kobylenski said that, after the July 1 deadline in the law, the group's director of community services, Jennifer Fontaine, received a call from a Price Chopper in Windsor.

"It's a new commercial resource and we're looking forward to seeing how the relationship develops," Kobylenski said. "We're excited to see what this will mean for them and for us."

Kobylenski said the ultimate beneficiaries of the boost in local food rescue efforts are the people served by food banks and pantries.

"We have been providing food to more than 1,300 households per month and we only give them enough food for one week for a family of their size."

The demand for that food is great, she said, and could grow even more quickly than donations under the law.

"In the month of July, there were 72 new households who had never come to us before for help," she said, "With more food, we'll be able to be assured of always having food here to serve people who come through the door."

Kobylenski said the Haven's workers have an unusual vantage point from which they can see a supply and a demand that don't always match up.

"There's nothing more awful than seeing food waste in the community, either at grocery stores or restaurants or anywhere else, and seeing people be hungry," she said.

"When we have partners who bring food to us, whether it's prepared food left at the end of the night, or stock being rotated out of the vegetable coolers or meat cases, we are so grateful to see them being willing to help others."

Matt Hongoltz-Hetling can be reached at mhonghet@vnews.com or 603- 727-3211.

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News Headline: Bee counters abound in Maine science effort |

Outlet Full Name: Westerly Sun, The

News Text: Climate change could be affecting a vital agricultural resource.

Associated Press

APPLETON, Maine - A bumblebee buzzes her wings in vain against the walls of the vial holding her captive. She alights briefly on the paper tab indicating her number, and then resumes scuttling around her plastic prison.

Her warden is Shaina Helsel, one soldier in a citizen army that is taking a census of Maine's bumblebees in an effort to secure the future of the state's blueberries, cranberries and tomatoes amid concern about the population of pollinators.

"Time, location, elevation play a factor in what species are where," says Helsel, a biology student at University of Maine at Augusta. "It's an interesting thing, going out and finding a bunch of different bumblebees. I've so far collected 105."

The project is among a growing number of "citizen science" efforts around the country that are designed to motivate the public to gather data about pollinators. The Great Pollinator Project of New York City tallied nearly 1,500 observations of the city's more than 200 bee species from 2007 to 2010. Across the continent, scientists and students at Washington State University also have tried to galvanize the public to collect data about bees, and more efforts are abuzz elsewhere.

Maine's counting effort is called the Maine Bumblebee Atlas, and it has a budget of about \$50,000. The state has been publicizing the project to recruit volunteers - and it's been successful: 106 volunteers have signed up, another 150 are in the queue, and some people were even turned away from two booked-up training sessions, says Beth Swartz, biologist for the state Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Volunteers include bankers, teachers, students and retired paper mill workers, she says - everyone from tree-loving conservationists to "people whose professional lives are not anywhere near focused on the outdoors."

The first training session was in May, and another took place in July, to be followed by another in spring 2016. The project is expected to last five years. The residents collect "observational data" about bumblebees and their habitats, while a specialist identifies the specimens they collect, Swartz says.

The national conversation about bee die-offs has largely centered on honeybees, which are different from the furry, chunky bumblebees. The Bee Informed Partnership said this year that about 5,000 beekeepers reported losing more than 40 percent of their honeybee colonies during a yearlong period that ended in April.

The numbers are troubling because of the billions of dollars in value honeybees provide to agriculture every year as pollinators. Scientists have cited factors that could be accelerating honeybee deaths, including parasites, pesticides, and poor nutrition from a lack of diversity in pollen and nectar sources.

In Maine, the focus is specifically on bumblebees, and state officials say species that are in decline have suffered from habitat loss, pesticides, and diseases and parasites introduced through commercially raised bumblebees.

Maine has 17 known native bumblebee species, and four of them became rarely observed starting in the 1990s, biologists say. Data are poor on the status of the other 13, and officials say a multiyear statewide survey will better assess the population, range and abundance of the bees, which are key pollina-

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tors of wildflowers and some of the state's most important crops.

Engaging the public to collect data about the bees is a step toward conserving them, says Swartz.

"People are interested in the plight of the bees; bumblebees are interesting and charismatic," she says. "Some of their work will give us quantitative data; we'll be able to tell if that particularly species is declining or increasing."

The status of bumblebees has generated concern around the country because the southern borders of their territories have crept northward over the past 40 years. Scientists say populations have declined or are disappearing because of warming weather.

Maine's bumblebees appear to be affected by climate change, says Frank Drummond, a professor of insect ecology at the University of Maine. The numbers of spring days when bumblebees can visit blueberries and other plants has been reduced by half since the early 1990s because of increased rain, he says.

That is worrisome for a state that relies on blueberries, a crop that supports a summer tourism industry and all manner of tasty confections, for \$250 million per year in economic value.

"At that critical time of blueberry pollination, we've been getting lots of wet springs," Drummond said.

--- Associated Press photographer Robert F. Bukaty contributed to this report.

A rented hive of bumblebees sits in a blueberry field in Appleton, Maine.

| AP Photo / Robert F. Bukaty

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News Headline: Otis special town meeting vote could help town reap windfall |

Outlet Full Name: Berkshire Eagle, The

News Text: OTIS >> Otis is a townwide vote away from using wind-generated electricity to power all its municipal buildings.

Special Town Meeting voters Tuesday night overwhelming supported borrowing \$6.4 million for the land acquisition, design and construction of a wind turbine on land off Algeria Road. The 82 to 13 margin of victory far exceeded the two-thirds majority necessary for approval.

Registered voters have the final say on Sept. 8 when they head to the polls from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. to decide if the loan should be excluded from the provisions of Proposition 2 c. The special election will be held at the Otis Town Hall.

If approved by voters next month, the single wind turbine could be operational a year from now, according to town officials.

The green energy project is expected to generate 6.2 million kilowatts of electricity each year, with the town needing only 350,000 kilowatts to run town-owned facilities. The rest of the electricity would be sold off to another government entity.

"This will be beneficial to all town departments and the residents of the town," said Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Roberta Sarnecki, following the special town meeting vote.

"The idea is to provide a more self-sufficient community that is energy independent," added Larry Gould, chairman of the Otis Energy Committee.

Gould conducted an hour-long informational meeting for Otis residents prior to the special town meeting vote.

He outlined how the \$6.4 million financing would be in the form of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, with the federal government covering 70 percent of the estimated 4.7 percent interest. Based on that figure, Otis taxpayers would pay close to 1.4 percent interest on the bonds.

Gould noted the interest rate could change by the time the bonds are floated in November.

Otis officials are currently negotiating with the landowner of the proposed site with an elevation between 1,500 and 1,600 feet.

The town is spending \$480,000 in state energy grants to pay for the feasibility and acoustic studies for the project. The remaining funds are covering preliminary design work.

The wind turbine will produce cheaper electricity than Otis currently gets from Eversource, the utility servicing the town and it will be a money maker too.

Gould said the town plans to sell excess electricity to the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaboration in the Springfield area.

"It's an opportunity to raise revenue without raising taxes how often does that happen?" he said.

If built, the proposed municipal wind turbine would be the second such project to come online in Otis since 2009. In June of that year, Williams Stone Co. activated its wind turbine, which cost the family owned business \$1.7 million.

Williams Stone provides granite curbing for highway construction and site development, as well as steps, benches, posts and other granite landscaping products for most of the Northeast, according to the company's website

Contact Dick Lindsay at 413 496-6233

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News Headline: Tidal Energy: The World's Next Renewable Powerhouse? |

Outlet Full Name: Boston.com

News Text: ...the ocean's surface, in what experts say surprisingly, is the most stable environment in which to generate electricity. Some 350 miles...

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News Headline: Law preventing lead exposure 'barely enforced' in Maine |

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...at keeping children in Maine and across the country from being exposed to lead paint is being "barely enforced."The administrator...

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News Headline: Rains swamp Tampa's wastewater system, causing overflow |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - The city of Tampa plans to send cameras inside its wastewater system soon to find which pipes need to be repaired or replaced in the wake of a massive rainstorm that caused raw sewage to flow into the streets.

The Tampa Tribune reports (<http://bit.ly/1MfkwGZ>) that prolonged rainfall soaks the ground and raises the water table above the underground wastewater pipes.

The city has 220 wastewater pumping stations but they couldn't empty the pipes fast enough as some inches of rain fell over 11 days in parts of the Tampa area.

Along with human waste overflowing from the sewers, nasty stuff from the surface like pesticides and animal feces also are washed into the water by the rain, spreading the bacteria-laden mixture far and wide.

Information from: The Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, <http://www.tampatrib.com>

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News Headline: Scientist Discovers Ugly New Fish in Gulf of Mexico |

Outlet Full Name: Valley News

News Text: Fort Lauderdale, Fla. - By conventional standards, the new species of fish discovered deep in the Gulf of Mexico is not beautiful.

Actually, by almost any standard, it's hideous.

But this spiky, snaggle-toothed fish, a sea creature from somebody's nightmares, is adapted to the harsh world below 3,000 feet, where it was co-discovered by a scientist at Nova Southeastern University.

Deep-sea expert Tracey Sutton identified the species while studying sea life at extreme ocean depths in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010, the university announced Wednesday. The new species, now named *Lasiognathus dinema*, was found as part of a research trawl that samples marine life at various ocean depths. In effect, they haul up a lot of dead stuff and see what they have.

Working with Theodore Pietsch from the University of Washington, Sutton found one species of anglerfish that had never been seen before. In fact they found three samples, all females, somewhere between 3,300 and 4,900 feet.

The new species uses a lure mounted on its head to attract prey. Anyone seeing photographs of the thing may be glad to learn it's tiny. The largest of the three samples was less than 4 inches long. Fish of the deep ocean tend to look pretty scary, with enormous mouths and needle-like teeth. Sutton said this is because they must be able to grab any available food in a difficult environment in which nutrition is hard to obtain.

"It's just a really harsh place to live," he said. "There's no sunlight. It's cold all the time. There's a lot of pressure. There's not a lot of food. Anything you see, you'd better eat it."

Sutton said the discovery of a new species shows how little we know about life in the deep ocean, a region defined as beginning at 1,000 meters, or about 3,300 feet.

Working under a federal oil-spill damage assessment program, they surveyed an area around the spill site the size of West Virginia. They are creating a baseline for what lives there so the next time there's a disaster, we will have a prior situation with which to compare it.

"What the Deepwater Horizon spill demonstrated is our lack of information on what lives in the depths," Sutton said.

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News Headline: Protecting Rhode Island's Investments |

Outlet Full Name: Providence Journal, The

News Text: Among the general treasurer's most important responsibilities is the management of Rhode Island's investments, particularly the \$8 billion pension system that is the primary source of retirement security for many of our state's teachers, public safety professionals and government employees.

From 2007 to 2009, our pension fund lost nearly 40 percent of its value as the global financial markets fell into crisis. I am pleased to report that since my administration began work in January, our pension fund has continued to produce positive returns despite a challenging market environment.

In our first six months, the pension fund returned 2.6 percent, surpassing the S&P 500 total return of 1.2 percent and Barclays Aggregate U.S. Bond return of minus-0.1 percent. Beating both the U.S. stock and bond markets is a result of the pension system's diversification, with real estate, private equity and equity hedge funds providing the strongest returns to the system this year.

Diversification means that, in any given period of time, some of the pension system's

investments will outperform the broader market and others will under-perform. But, by not putting too many eggs in one basket, we reduce risk so our capital will be preserved in tough markets and grow over time.

Over the past six months, we have made a number of improvements to our investment portfolio. The State Investment Commission has voted to make 11 adjustments to the pension fund's investments this year, removing capital from low-performing funds, investing in promising new funds, approving lower fee structures negotiated by our investment team, and shifting a portion of our equity allocation to a factor-weighted index fund that provides additional diversification while keeping costs low.

One initiative of which I am particularly proud is our push to make investments more accessible and open to the public. With the launch of our Transparent Treasury program, all Rhode Islanders can now see clearly on the Treasury website where their funds are invested and how they are performing. We have adopted a new policy that Rhode Island will only invest with investment firms that let us publish their performance at least quarterly and fees and expenses annually. This policy is among the first of its kind in the country, and has made us a national model for financial transparency.

Our push for pension transparency serves both a moral and financial purpose. The pension system is funded largely by the public, and the public has a right to know where its funds are being invested, under what terms, and how they are performing. I am also hopeful that making the state's investment information more readily accessible will lead to stronger financial performance over time by encouraging an informed public dialogue on how we can do better.

Transparency is especially important with regard to our positions in so-called alternative investments, such as private equity, real estate and hedge funds. While the pension system's alternative investments have been among our best performing this year, these types of funds have rightfully come under scrutiny for their high and often complicated fee structures.

Our policy of publishing comprehensive performance, fee and expense data includes alternative investments. However, because of the way private equity deals, in particular, are structured, it may be possible for fund managers to inappropriately overcharge pension systems without their knowledge. While we have no evidence that any of Rhode Island's fund managers are engaging in such practices, we believe that stronger federal regulation is necessary to improve fee and expense transparency for all alternative investments \x97 private equity in particular.

Last month, our office sent a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission requesting that the commission develop stronger standards for fee and expense disclosure. Our letter was signed by 12 other state treasurers and comptrollers \x97 Republicans and Democrats \x97 representing some of the largest public funds in the

country. By recruiting others to join our effort, I am hopeful that our call for better fee and expense disclosure will be heard.

The world faces uncertain financial times in the years ahead. Through diversification, prudent risk management, and a commitment to transparency, our office will continue working to preserve and grow the state's investments. Rhode Islanders deserve no less.

\x97Seth Magaziner is general treasurer of Rhode Island.

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News Headline: Thousands of mines with toxic water lie under the West | .

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...a nauseating yellow concoction and stoking alarm about contamination of drinking water. Though the spill into the Animas River in...

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News Headline: A decade after Suncook River disaster, frustration remains |

Outlet Full Name: Concord Monitor Online

News Text: ...irrigating nearby crops, the result is more sandy banks washing away. The environment is complex enough that the nationally renowned firm...

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News Headline: Navajo Nation considers suing EPA over spill |

Outlet Full Name: USA Today Online

News Text: 5:38 p.m. EDT August 9, 2015 The Navajo Nation is considering suing the Environmental Protection Agency after an EPA team...

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News Headline: Emergency declared after EPA pollutes river | .

Outlet Full Name: USA Today Online

News Text: ...La Plata County, Colo., declared a state of emergency Sunday, after the Environmental Protection Agency took responsibility...

News Headline: Mysterious fungus killing snakes in at least 9 states |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: NEW HAVEN, Vt. (AP) - Hidden on hillsides in a remote part of western Vermont, a small number of venomous timber rattlesnakes slither among the rocks, but their isolation can't protect them from a mysterious fungus spreading across the eastern half of the country that threatens to wipe them out.

In less than a decade, the fungus has been identified in at least nine Eastern states, and although it affects a number of species, it's especially threatening to rattlesnakes that live in small, isolated populations with little genetic diversity, such as those found in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York.

In Illinois the malady threatens the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, which was a candidate for the federal endangered species list even before the fungus appeared.

Biologists have compared its appearance to the fungus that causes white nose syndrome in bats, which since 2006 has killed millions of the creatures and continues to spread across North America.

It's unclear, though, if snake fungal disease, "ophidiomyces ophiodiicola" was brought to the United States from elsewhere, as was white nose fungus, or if it has always been present in the environment and for some unknown reason is now infecting snakes, biologists say.

"I think potentially this could overwhelm any conservation effort we could employ to try to protect this last remaining population," said Doug Blodgett, a biologist with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife who has been studying the state's rattlesnake population for 15 years. "We don't have any control over it. It's just completely out there in the wild."

Rattlesnakes were once found across much of the country, but habitat loss and efforts by fearful humans to wipe them out reduced their numbers, especially at the northern edges of their range.

In New Hampshire, the disease helped halve the population of rattlesnakes - now estimated at several dozen - after it was first spotted in 2006, although it was only afterward that scientists linked the fungus to the decline, officials said.

Vermont's population of timber rattlesnakes is down to two locations near Lake Champlain in the western part of the state with an estimated total population of several hundred.

An Associated Press reporter was allowed to accompany wildlife officials to a rattlesnake habitat on condition the exact location not be revealed out of concern that too much attention could further threaten them. Blodgett led an hours-long search for some of the elusive creatures until he found a pair hiding in a rocky crevice, though it wasn't clear if they were infected. Later, a healthy single snake was found on the forest floor.

The disease can cause crusty scabs and lesions, sometimes on the head.

Jeffrey Lorch, a microbiologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, said he's been getting reports of snake fungal disease from all over the eastern United States. Not every location is reporting that the disease is threatening snake populations.

"It does seem to be a disease that has different effects in different areas," Lorch said.

The fungus poses a greater risk to snakes that reproduce slowly, such as rattlesnakes, which can live up to 30 years, experts say.

In Illinois every year the disease infects about 15 percent of the population of about 300 of massasauga rattlesnakes, most of which are in Clinton County, with a mortality rate of 80 to 90 percent, said Matt Allender, a wildlife veterinarian and epidemiologist at the University of Illinois who started noticing the fungus in 2011. The mortality rate in infected timber rattlesnakes is estimated between 30 and 70 percent, he said.

The fungus' impact on the massasauga is expected to play a part in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's determination on whether to list the snake as endangered, officials said.

"I think that in populations that have been shrunk due to other mechanisms, such as habitat loss, other environmental changes, those types of things, are more at risk of going extinct from snake fungal disease mainly because it's a smaller population," Allender said. "They have less of a buffer to withstand these diseases."

Part of the challenge in studying the disease is that snakes, especially venomous varieties, don't get much sympathy from the public, which makes funding studies harder. Snakes are also harder to find than, say, white-nose-infected bats where scientists can go into a cave and see tens of thousands of carcasses, Lorch said.

The fungus has been found in all five rattlesnake populations in Massachusetts, but it doesn't appear to have had the high mortality rate reported elsewhere, said Anne Stengle, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Massachusetts who is overseeing a federal grant in nine states to study the fungus.

Since the initial hit, the decline in the Granite State's timber rattlesnakes appears to

have stabilized and some are reproducing, said New Hampshire Fish and Game Biologist Mike Marchand.

"I'm at least optimistic that there are animals that are successfully surviving from year to year as well as reproducing," Marchand said. "We had a pretty strong dip in the population."

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News Headline: Thousands of mines with toxic water lie under US West | .

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: DENVER (AP) - Beneath the western United States lie thousands of old mining tunnels filled with the same toxic stew that spilled into a Colorado river last week, turning it into a nauseating yellow concoction and stoking alarm about contamination of drinking water.

Though the spill into the Animas River in southern Colorado is unusual for its size, it's only the latest instance of the region grappling with the toxic legacy of a mining boom.

Until the late 1970s there were no regulations on mining in most of the region, meaning anyone could dig a hole to search for gold, silver, copper or zinc. When mines are abandoned they fill with groundwater and snowmelt that becomes tainted with acids and heavy metals which can trickle into waterways. Experts estimate there are 55,000 such abandoned mines in the region.

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News Headline: EPA: No health risks to wildlife after Colorado mine spill | .

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: DENVER (AP) — An Environmental Protection Agency official says she doesn't believe wildlife will suffer significant health...

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News Headline: Michigan senator plans legislation on Canadian waste plan |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: DETROIT (AP) - U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow plans to introduce legislation related to a planned Canadian nuclear waste disposal facility that would be less than a mile from Lake Huron.

A spokesman for the Michigan Democrat declined to release details ahead of a news conference scheduled for Monday afternoon in Detroit.

Ontario Power Generation wants to bury 7.1 million cubic feet of low- and intermediate-level waste from nuclear power plants at a generating station near Kincardine, Ontario.

The company says there's virtually no chance the project will contaminate Lake Huron, but opponents say it's not worth the risk.

An advisory panel endorsed the plan in May. The Canadian environment minister says she'll make a decision by Dec. 2.

Stabenow and other Michigan members of Congress already have offered non-binding resolutions opposing the plan.

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News Headline: Public health advisory issued for northwest Ohio park beach |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) - A high level of algal toxin has triggered a public health advisory for a Lake Erie state park beach in northwest Ohio.

The Blade of Toledo reports (<http://bit.ly/1KaRjXv>) that the state Department of Health posted the advisory after testing last Wednesday by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The advisory about the Maumee Bay State Park beach says the elderly, young children and people with health issues should not go into the water.

Authorities are monitoring spreading lake algae. The bloom this year is expected to grow over the next month.

Authorities are also closely monitoring Toledo's water. A warning last August left some 400,000 people in northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan without safe tap water for two days. The latest testing showed it remains safe to drink.

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News Headline: Rescue dogs trained to detect invasive pests in crops |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - Florida agriculture officials are relying on some unusual employees to help them protect crops across the state - some four legged friends.

State officials train rescue dogs to detect invasive pests and disease. One dog's sole mission is to detect giant African land snails in South Florida. Another dog was able to detect Olive fruit fly, one of the most damaging pests of olives, in a package of fruits being shipped from California. Another Lab was able to detect invasive water lettuce, which is prohibited to import to Florida, contained within an unmarked box at a South Florida postal facility.

Invasive species cost about \$100 million a year to Florida's \$120 billion agriculture industry.

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News Headline: Devil's Lake State Park tries pesticide to fight beetle |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press (AP)

News Text: BARABOO, Wis. (AP) - State park officials are trying a different approach at Devil's Lake State Park to fight the emerald ash borer.

Managers of state parks infested with the destructive beetle have felled thousands of ash trees in the last three years to help reduce the danger of weakened trees toppling.

In Baraboo, Devil's Lake State Park supervisor Steve Schmelzer tells The Wisconsin State Journal (<http://bit.ly/1NjAxIQ>) they purchased equipment to inject about 75 tree trunks with pesticide.

Andrea Diss-Torrance, of the Department of Natural Resources' invasive species program, says the equipment may be shared with other parks, such as Perrot State Park on the Mississippi River, which hired a contractor to treat some trees.

Schmelzer says they also plan to cut 75 trees considered less valuable or have been weakened by other factors.

Information from: Wisconsin State Journal, <http://www.madison.com/wsaj>

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News Headline: If you go . . . to Revere Beach - The Boston Globe |

Outlet Full Name: Boston Globe Online

News Text: ...MBTA Blue Line. Revere Beach Reservation is open year-round, dawn to dusk. Water quality is monitored by the state from Memorial Day...

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News Headline: Amid withering post-Ferguson critique, police around the country look inward |

Outlet Full Name: Christian Science Monitor, The

News Text: A year after Ferguson, Mo., police officer Darren Wilson killed an unarmed black man named Michael Brown, the nearly 800,000 American police officers from Santa Rosa, Calif., to Atlanta are navigating new and uncertain terrain.

While the danger of the job hasn't subsided, public admiration for police has dropped amid a string of video evidence showing police officers acting with seeming disregard for human life.

A June Gallup poll found the lowest percentage of confidence in police since 1993, in the wake □ of the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King. While noting that the recent drop in confidence was likely due to events in Ferguson and elsewhere, Gallup also reported that "trust in police ... remains high in an absolute sense, despite being at a historical low."

Still, it's been a tough year for a profession seen publicly as ranging from Dirty Harry to Norman Rockwell, even as real cops perform what Jonathan Thompson of the National Sheriffs' Association calls a "dangerous, risky, hard, ugly job."

An average of 45 million citizen-police interactions a year have become complicated by a new look at how police use force, especially deadly force, and especially in communities of color. Video images have raised new questions about the authority of the badge on the streets, and, at the very least, have given police officers pause in everyday interactions with citizens.

"The harm from the Freddie Gray death [where a Baltimore man died in police custody] has had a chilling effect," Peter Moskos, a former Baltimore police officer, told the AP recently. "Cops were saying, 'That could have been me'" who ended up charged with serious crimes.

Even the most ardent anti-police brutality activists acknowledge that the vast majority of US police officers are well-trained and decent. But the past year has put a sharp spotlight on potentially rogue officers who, by lack of training or by a crimp in their moral compass, have brought shame to the badge. Recent videos have given America a glimpse of that dark side of policing, and reckoning with it has become a national priority.

"These [police shooting] incidents have gotten national attention and settled into the public consciousness in a way that has changed the landscape in ways we have not seen before," says Laurie Robinson, a George Mason University criminologist who served as co-chair of the White House Task Force on 21st-Century Policing. "It's changed the landscape for policing, it's changed the landscape for criminal justice, and it's changed the landscape for public officials, who can't treat this as a crisis to get through, but who have to now grapple with this and pay serious attention to it."

That tumultuous shift has led in some places to low morale, even work slow-downs, among the rank-and-file

In Baltimore, the riots over the death of Mr. Gray in police hands seem to have unleashed a murder wave, with the city recording 189 murders through July. The police force, which saw six of its officers indicted in the death of Mr. Gray and the subsequent firing of police commissioner Anthony Batts, has seen morale plummet amid the violence. Even as the murder rate doubled, arrests in Baltimore were halved over the same period.

The new interim chief, Kevin Davis, acknowledged that police officers are in the midst of a period of existential introspection, hardened by poll numbers. Before Ferguson, 33 percent of white Americans were dissatisfied with how blacks are treated; in the wake of Brown's killing, according to Gallup, that dissatisfaction figure has risen to 47 percent

"We have a profession with authority that no other profession has," Mr. Davis told the AP last month. "We can take a person's freedom away and ... a human life if justification exists to do so. Where we are in this moment in time is, we have to engage in a great deal of self-examination, and look at how we can do things better."

But police are being asked to do so even as many feel like pariahs, unfairly targeted en masse by mayors, the US Justice Department, even President Obama.

Bill Johnson, the director of the National Association of Police Organizations, sympathizes with beat cops whose jobs have become slogs.

"I think police officers feel, in general, that things are tougher right now," he says. "Economically, things are tougher. Police officers see people who have given up looking for work, so drug use is coming back up and violent crime is going up. Race relations are worse than they have been in the recent past. All things that people don't like to talk about. The world is angrier, and just harder."

Such dire perceptions have had an impact on officers. New York City, where Mayor Bill de Blasio came in on a police reform agenda, saw the city's police force slow down its work after widespread official criticism over the death of Eric Garner, who died after a NYPD officer put a chokehold on him after he resisted arrest for selling

single, untaxed cigarettes.

The incriminating videos of police callousness and disregard - including the death of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland and the killing of motorist Walter Scott in North Charleston, S.C. - have magnified simmering problems in some urban departments in the US.

In the past five years, over 100 Washington, D.C., police officers have been arrested for crimes ranging from money laundering to murder. And Baltimore is one city among many with a long history of alleged police abuses, some of which have been richly documented by local media, including the 17 officers arrested in 2011 for running an extortion scheme.

The pressures of the job likely play into criminality by police. □ On average, cops have higher rates of alcoholism, suicide, and divorce than the general population.

Adding to the tension: □ The country is still entrenched in a post-9/11 national security environment that saw a widespread militarization of local police, and where soldier traditions and paramilitary tactics seeped deeper into policing culture, according to "Rise of the Warrior Cop," by libertarian author Radley Balko.

That trend has hardened an already significant "us versus them" approach by many especially urban police departments, where some parts of town feel, at least to cops, like war zones. As part of that defensiveness, police academies focus first and foremost on the gun. US police cadets spend an average of 58 hours at the gun range and eight years learning how to de-escalate tense situations.

"We're seeing the problem that arises when we deploy our police as a security force: they become insulated ... [as] they try to control people from a safe distance, and that's when the guns tend to come out," says Rob Kane, a criminologist at Drexel University, and author of "Jammed Up: Bad Cops, Police Misconduct and the New York City Police Department."

"The irony is that the neighborhoods where we send our police in as a paramilitary unit, these are the neighborhoods where the heavy use of coercion is most likely to backfire on police and the public," he says.

Nevertheless, policing reforms proposed after Ferguson have gained various amounts of traction. Body cameras are becoming more commonplace, and are widely seen as a safeguard for both civilians and police. Washington has modified the process for allowing police departments to receive used military equipment. Some states, including New York and Connecticut, now appoint special prosecutors to look into controversial use-of-force incidents.

For Mr. Wilson, the now ex-Ferguson officer who was twice exonerated of any wrongdoing in the killing of Mr. Brown, a central problem for police officers in the

video age is that it's difficult to consider a suspect's full humanity when faced with split-second decisions that could change the world forever.

"We can't fix in thirty minutes what happened [to someone] thirty years ago," Wilson told The New Yorker. "We have to fix what's happening□now.□That's my job as a police officer. I'm not going to delve into people's life-long history and figure out why they're feeling a certain way, in a certain moment. I'm not a psychologist."

Though Wilson has repeatedly tried to find another job as a police officer, he remains unemployed, the magazine reports.

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News Headline: Smart Commuting B2B Challenge returns in September |

Outlet Full Name: Hampton Union - Online, The

News Text: ...biking, saving money in gas, reducing vehicle wear and tear, helping the environment, and improving general well-being and happiness....

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News Headline: Boat Parade in Brazil Protests Pollution in Olympic Venue |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times Online

News Text: RIO DE JANEIRO — At least 30 boats of all sizes are taking part in a parade protesting the contamination of Rio de Janeiro's Guanabara Bay where...

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News Headline: Capturing the Magic of a Life in the Air |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times, The

News Text: Mark Vanhoenacker's new book, "Skyfaring: A Journey With a Pilot" (Knopf), isn't exactly a memoir. It's a meditation on flying, on the physical act of soaring through the air in a giant metal tube, and on the foreign-to-most experiences of the pilot behind the yoke. "I am occasionally asked if I don't find it boring, to be in the cockpit for so many hours," he writes. "But I've never had the sense that there was any more enjoyable way to spend my working life, that below me existed some other kind of time for which I would trade my hours in the sky."

To try to understand that level of passion, I met Mr. Vanhoenacker (who has written for The New York Times, including the Travel section) at Kennedy Airport, where we talked, first in a terminal waiting area, then in the cockpit of one of the British

Airways 747s that he flies. We spoke about the book, the differences between being a pilot and a passenger, and what we've lost as flying has become a routine part of many of our lives. Here are excerpts from that conversation, edited for length and clarity. DAN SALTZSTEIN: In the book, you talk about something that I think passengers will intuitively understand, which is the idea of place lag. Not jet lag, not based on circadian rhythms, but disorientation based on location.

MARK VANHOENACKER: Well, place lag is the best term I could come up with for that bewilderment, which is something a lot more than culture shock or jet lag. It's something that pilots or aircrews experience more extremely than anybody else. Let's say you start in North London and you get on the Tube and take the train out, and then you end up on a flight for 12 hours, and suddenly you're making an approach into Singapore. It's the next afternoon and you left London late at night and now it's midafternoon and these great towers of clouds are rising off the Strait of Singapore and you look down and think, "This is just a whole other world." Then you land and go through customs and immigration and suddenly you're on a bus and off-duty for the first time in 16 hours.

You look around, and all around you it's just a regular afternoon. People are sitting in their cars and their houses and listening to the radio, listening to news programs about events and people that are as foreign as any could be to us, and yet airplanes connect us in that way. Airplanes make that kind of motion possible. I think we probably evolved as a species to be born, to live and to die within a few dozen square miles of forest or savanna.

We will simply never be accustomed to that kind of change of place. I think in a way it's a good thing. It's kind of the wonder of travel and it's something that I have not become more accustomed to. It only gets more wondrous to me, really.

DS: It sounds to me, to a certain degree, that the ability to deal with it is almost a constitutional thing. I find it not only disconcerting but stressful. I've learned over the years, traveling, that I more or less never enjoy a place the first day that I'm there. I just can't. That feeling of disconnection feels overwhelming to me. It sounds as if you have a more positive take on it than I do. I wonder if you feel like that's because you're a pilot or it's one of the things that helped you become a pilot.

MV: I was always really fascinated with the imaginative journeys that planes make. I talk in the book about coming here to J.F.K. when I was a kid to pick up relatives who were flying from Belgium. We were on the top of the old Pan Am building, and I watched a plane come in from Saudi Arabia, and it had the palm tree and the swords and the Arabic text on the tail or on the fuselage. I remember just being blown away at the thought that that plane had started its day in Dammam or Riyadh or Jeddah. That it had made this kind of journey. So I was always really drawn to that sense that planes give us, that the whole world is going on at once. That planes can transport us in a way that really nothing else can.

DS: It's also very easy to forget how new it is. It feels like such a part of our everyday lives and so integral to people's professional lives and family lives. Yet it has really only existed, on a mass scale at least, for, what, 50 years?

MV: Yeah, and I think that ties into the sense that I almost wonder if the sort of dream of flight doesn't perhaps have its own biological origins. Kids are so obsessed with the sight of airplanes and even on the ground, like at Heathrow, at Terminal 5, there are these big floor-to-ceiling windows there and you often see kids just lined up there. You see people taking selfies too now. People often ask me if flying was something I always wanted to do. I really like that question because I wonder if people are asking not about me as an individual but if they're kind of referring to the species.

[After a walk-around, in which the pilot visually inspects the exterior of the plane, we headed up to the cockpit. It felt smaller than I had expected.]

DS: Does this ever feel claustrophobic to you?

MV: No, this is a large flight deck, actually, compared to other flight decks. We've got our bedroom there -- it's like being inside a tent. It's got a bathroom. It's what we often call the en-suite suite.

DS: But your visibility is limited in some ways. You obviously can't see most of the plane from here.

MV: You develop this sense of the length of the plane and the width of it. Often, an aircraft controller will say, "Plane vacating the runway." One of the things you learn when you're training is that when we in the cockpit have left the runway, there's 200 feet of plane behind us that is still on it. So you develop this whole kind of awareness.

DS: Looking out of the windshield, everything looks so narrow and distorted to me. Is that something that just goes away when you're in the air?

MV: Because most of the time we're looking at something that's ahead of us, almost always really, and the scale of the outside world means that these don't feel small at all once you're moving. Again, we're very conscious that what you cannot see is what's underneath you. Or even what's just ahead of you.

DS: You wrote in the book about how pilots will say the sunsets that you see from a cockpit would qualify as the best sunsets you've ever seen from the ground -- but you're seeing them constantly. And there are scenarios where you would not just see one long sunset but actually multiple sunsets.

MV: Yeah. When you fly from London to Tokyo, you go into the Arctic and it's a night flight. You leave London in the afternoon and you get to Tokyo in the morning.

So it's a night flight. But the sun never goes down because in those higher latitudes it doesn't go down at all during the summer. So you fly into that area where it's continuous sunlight, and by the time you're flying out of that area, it's morning where you are. But sometimes you turn south a bit and the sun will set. Then when you climb, you get higher -- just a few thousand feet can make the sun rise again because you're still getting that higher vantage point over the top of the Earth. And so, you can get three or four in the flight. It really makes you question what exactly is a day. It's sunrise to sunset, or is it?

[We finished our conversation in a cab on the way back to Manhattan.]

DS: Something else you write about is the sealed-off quality of flying in general, at least modern flying, going from one sealed place to another sealed place. Is that felt more intensely as a pilot, or less?

MV: For pilots, it's more intense because the air is the basis of so many of our calculations. The whole flight is based on calculations. Air is the medium and we're dealing with it in so many technical ways. So where there are breaks in that cocoon-ness, like where the jetway bridge meets the plane, we often get this blast of heat, as we did today getting off the 747, or Chicago cold. To me, it's kind of this nice reminder of what it is we're actually moving through. Often, you get a smell of the city. In Boston, you can really smell the harbor sometimes. Even before you land sometimes you can get a little bit of a smell of salt in the air.

DS: And I guess doing the walk-around breaks that as well.

MV: Sure. Nobody likes getting wet, but I really love doing the walk-around when it's really terrible, heavy rain or snow and strong winds. Then you come back into the cockpit and it's warm and dry. And you know that you're accounting for all the weather you just walked through, and it changes your calculations that cover the takeoff and various other things. The airplane is moving in an alien environment at high altitude, of course. In terms of the temperature and the air pressure, it's alien to us. To get that sense of the vessel when you're still on the ground is quite lovely.

DS: There's a serene quality to the book, which is perhaps just your style of writing. But I also wonder whether, in a way, flying can be more stressful for the passenger than the pilot. As you write in the book, you're going 600 miles per hour, yet it's steadier than a car on grass.

MV: Also, we have an understanding of the degree to which the planes are engineered. We know turbulence can be uncomfortable but it's never dangerous. We can see the altitude and the speed. We have this large view ahead. We may know that there's turbulence coming from an aircraft ahead of us or because it's been forecast.

DS: I wonder whether flying can ever become routine for a pilot when you're constantly reminded of that alien environment and you're constantly reminded of the

views.

MV: One of the reasons I wrote the book was to remind myself how amazing it is, the extraordinary things that we do all the time that become ordinary. When you see the Northern Lights for three hours a night a week, or see the sun setting on the Alps, or fly over Istanbul and see the gold glitter in morning light, how can you be amazed by that all the time?

I've gotten some emails from colleagues who've read the book and were happy to re-encounter that enthusiasm. Flying is a wonder for everyone. Kids are always a good reminder of what we should try to rediscover or shouldn't get used to. Kids are amazed by airplanes.

I've flown as a passenger in places like Brazil -- domestic flights between secondary cities. And everyone is looking out the windows. Even in the middle seats, people are trying to look out of the window. Maybe that's just because Brazil is a really beautiful country from the air. But I often wonder if it's because, in these countries that have rapidly developed a middle class, flying still seems like a new experience for a lot of people.

I've never flown domestically in China; I've only flown to and from it on long-haul flights. But it wouldn't surprise me at all if the same thing was happening there. You don't realize how big China is until you fly over it from London and spend three or four hours over it on your way to Beijing or Hong Kong. Countries like that will be revolutionized the same way the U.S. has been.

DS: If you had to pinpoint what you feel as a pilot that you can convey to an average passenger, that they either take for granted or don't know about the experience of flying, what would that be?

MV: I guess the sense that I was trying to capture in the book is the one I had as a child. I can't think of an easier thing to find a sort of basic human joy in. It's really quite a spiritual experience, and it's also this amazing technological achievement. A lot of pilots have those things as the two halves of their personalities. They have a romantic sensibility about the world but are also amazed by science and technology.

Flying is a very old dream of our species, and when we look out at a 747 waiting to take us halfway across the world, we're looking at a dream come true. It maybe doesn't feel like that because we do it so often now, but planes are literally a dream that's come true.

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News Headline: Rutland Pipes Break, Fill Creek With Sewage |

Outlet Full Name: Valley News

News Text: Rutland - More than 100,000 gallons of raw sewage flowed into East Creek in Rutland this week through a broken sewer line, according to city officials.

A sewer pipe in broke during routine cleaning Monday and began leaking raw sewage into the creek, officials reported to state regulators Thursday. Employees didn't find the leak until three days and 100,000 gallons of sewage later. When they rerouted the sewage to a different pipe, they discovered that pipe was broken too, leaking an additional 1,000 to 10,000 gallons into the creek.

The state's Department of Environmental Conservation issued a news release about the sewage dump, the first such news release this year.

The release also said an estimated 150,000 gallons has flowed into East Creek, although the department's website shows a maximum of 110,000 gallons. Officials warned in the release that the health department determined that 150,000 gallons of raw sewage in state waters has created "the potential for a health hazard."

"People should stay out of the water and not swim in it, or use it for recreational purposes from Rutland to Proctor for 48 hours after the release has been stopped," the release said.

The leaks highlight outdated wastewater infrastructure that has posed a threat to the environment - and sometimes public health - for years. Although wastewater treatment facilities make up just three percent of Vermont's phosphorus pollution into Lake Champlain, environmental advocates say the state needs to do more to prevent sewage spills, and needs to do a better job notifying the public when they happen.

Officials say reporting has improved in recent years, and the state is working on a new system that would allow wastewater plant operators to upload notice of spills directly to the state website.

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